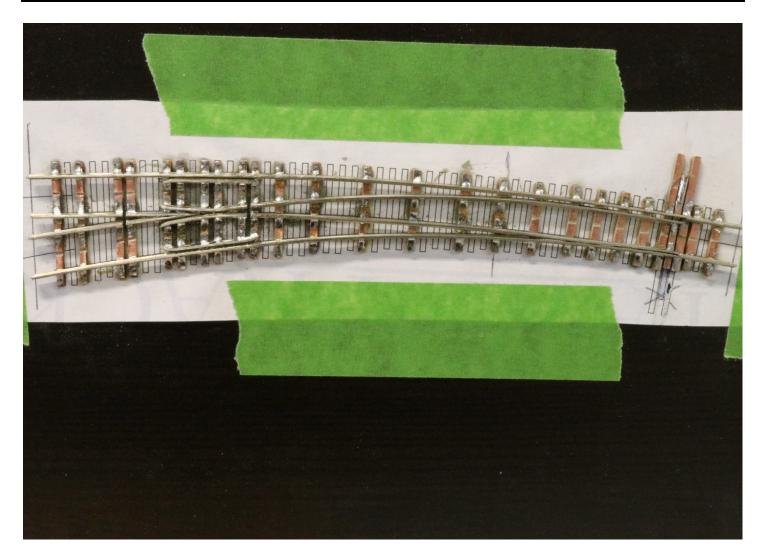


The monthly publication of the **Western Kansas Division**

March 2025





On The Cover:

A request by a friend changed the direction of the WKR staff, where we set out to build two, replacement N-scale track switches to replace a pair of troublesome switches on his layout. Details inside.....

In This Issue:

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WKR Update	Page	16
Date Book	Page	36





Free-mo is a modular scale railroading standard designed for individual modelers that specifies bench work, track work, scenery and digital control intended to *raise-the-bar* for scale modular railroading in general and, in this case, for N scale modular railroading.

Designed to satisfy the needs of the **advanced modeler** over the needs of the beginner or the public.

Click here for more information: <u>http://free-mon.net/</u>



Open House & Train Show...

It is that time again, we are hosting our Biennial Train Show in Deshler.

Train Show – Open House

July 5th and 6th 2025

Visit our display at the Boot Hill Model Railroad Club's Train Show @ the Finney County Fairgrounds In Garden City, Kansas March 8th and 9th

New Exclusive Product...

Intermountain HO Scale Bi-Level Auto Rack Rock Island



Spring Creek Model Trains offers exclusive <u>Intermountain</u> Bi-Level auto rack Rock Island. This model comes in six different road numbers not available from Intermountain, and different from our previous run of this car. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

Click here for the SCMT website: <u>https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/</u>

Find SCMT on Facebook here: <u>https://www.facebook.com/springcreekmodeltrains</u>





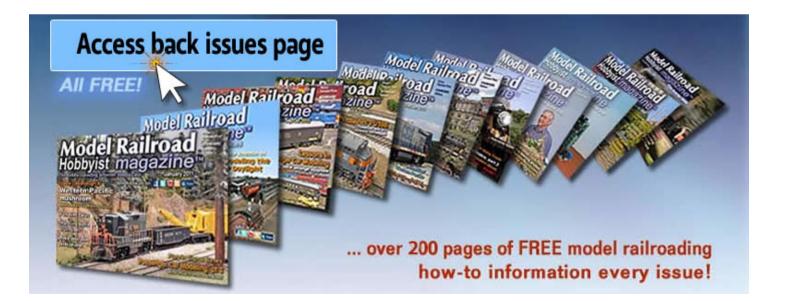
DCC consisting tips and tricks ...

February 2025 MRH

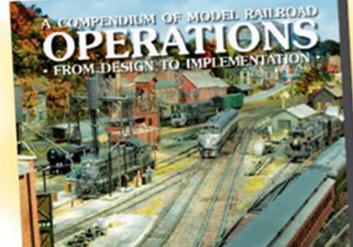
The Feb MRH magazine came out last week.



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All model railroaders, whether expert or beginner, will find a wealth of useful information in the OpSIG's second publication, A COMPENDIUM OF MODEL RAILROAD OPERATIONS - FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION, A complete guide to all things operations, our latest offering covers every aspect of prototype operations and how to apply them to your model railroad-from design and staffing to yards and paperwork, from communications and signals to dispatching and car forwardingin 310 full-color pages. Written by ten of your fellow modelers and professionals, The Compendium contains more than 350 photos, 120 illustrations, and countless tips, pointers, suggestions, and prototype information to help guide you on your journey. A must for any modeler interested in prototype operations, add it to your library today!

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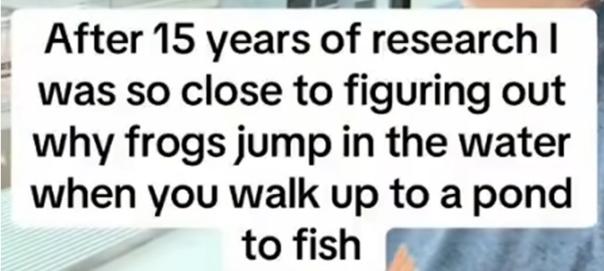
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Lost my \$300K a year job with USAID and the \$27,000,000 grant







DODGE CITY, KANSAS YARD



On a cold January 9th, 2025, there was not much action, but we found two pairs of road units trying to keep warm.



BNSF 8081 is a GE ES44C4 The **General Electric ES44C4** is a type of six-axle, A1A-trucked, AC-traction, 4,400hp type locomotive built from 2009-2020.

The model was the very first A1A-trucked (center axles are unpowered) diesel locomotive built in North America since the late-1950's and is also the very first ever domestic AC-traction diesel locomotive built with such feature. A total of 1200+ have been built thus far for **BNSF Railway**.





DODGE CITY, KANSAS YARD



(Below) **BNSF 7683** was built in March of 2005 as a **GE ES44DC**. The **ES44DC** series was produced between 2005 and 2010. The **ES44DC** (Evolution Series, 4,400 hp, DC traction motors) replaced the Dash 9-44CW model in the General Electric catalogue. Primary users are BNSF, CSX Transportation, and Canadian National Railway.





(Left) The crew working on the tarp of what appears to be a wood chip car.





DODGE CITY, KANSAS YARD









Friday the Convention starts with clinics around 1:00 pm. Intent is to give you time to drive into the Convention on Friday morning.



Holiday Inn & Suites Overland Park, KS

Friday will feature clinics related to Kansas City Southern, then interesting clinics on modeling and layout operations.

We are planning a couple of photo presentations on Friday morning for those who come early.

The model and photo contest room will open at 1:00 pm for displays and judging. Friday will be the only day for the contest model viewing and judging. Wrap up the judging Friday evening. Present award plaques at Saturday evening banquet.

We are overlaying MCoR activities onto the Turkey Creek Division Annual Train Show with its own separate contest, awards and clinics Saturday morning through early afternoon. Their awards will be presented Saturday afternoon in a separate presentation. Turkey Creek Show is open to the public.

MCoR clinics will be Friday afternoon, MCoR contest room will start Friday at 1:00 pm, contest and judging will be complete Friday evening. All winners will be determined by NMRA judging scores. MCoR is planning a "Dessert Snack Bar" Friday evening. **Maybe ice cream and pie!** Trying to arrange a short presentation or speaker to highlight the evening. Turkey Creek is planning to have six (6) more clinics Saturday morning. Turkey Creek will also host a contest room with awards presented in early afternoon. Winning is based upon popular vote. All MCoR attendees can also submit their models to this contest.

Home layout tours are planned for Saturday afternoon.

MCoR will host our banquet on Saturday evening. Planning for:

- A nice dinner with cash bar
- A guest speaker (somewhat shorter in length)
- · Awards for model and photo contest
- Special award for KCS category
- MCoR Service Awards
- A "Chinese Auction"! (with tickets being sold at banquet)
- A short live auction (member built items)

Don't forget about the special contest category soliciting entries on KCS/pre-cursor railroads. It will be a very nice special plaque! See the eligible railroads which will count as KCS and its evolution.



Hope you all enjoy

and welcome the shortened convention schedule, economy motel costs! ... so you can spend more money at the train show!

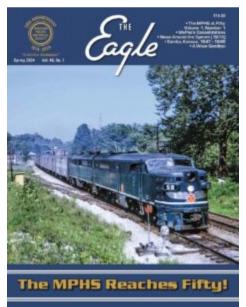
Larry W. Diehl Your MCoR President





Preserving America's Railroad Heritage for Future Generations

The Missouri Pacific Historical Society is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980 with roots that go back to 1974. We preserve and promote the history of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and its affiliates, which spanned the south and west of the United States dating back to the 1850s.



The Society publishes an illustrated quarterly magazine called *"The Eagle."*

Each issue contains current news and articles of historical interest. Rosters of equipment, technical information and data, and modeling projects are just a few of many items of interest published along with the business of the society. All members are urged to contribute material for publication. Along with the magazine, the Society produces a full color calendar of photos from across the railroad covering all eras.

2025 Joint MPHS, BRHS, and CEIHS Convention in Marion, Illinois

Mark your calendars for our 2025 Joint Convention with the Burlington Route Historical Society (BRHS) and Chicago & Eastern Illinois Historical Society (CEIHS) in Marion, Illinois, October 9-11 at the Drury Inn & Suites.

Click here for the MPHS website: <u>https://mopac.org/</u>

For the MPHS Facebook page, click here:

https://www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical



Unlock new possibilities with FDM

FDM 3D Printing Now Available at Shapeways

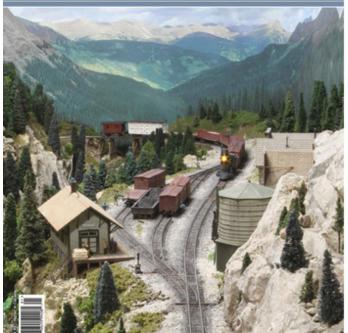
We've expanded our manufacturing capabilities to include Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)—a cost-effective, versatile 3D printing technology ideal for everything from rapid prototyping to end-use parts. With a range of thermoplastics available, including ABS, ASA, and Polycarbonate, this addition makes high-quality, durable parts more accessible than ever.

The reception to the acquisition of the Shapeways brand and, more recently, Thangs by the new management team has been overwhelmingly positive. As the team reconnects with its roots, we're thrilled to provide renewed opportunities to serve the vibrant 3D printing community.

Check out their website: <u>https://www.shapeways.com/</u>







IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

Planning & Constructing Scenery On my Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad, Part 1 by Preston Sands

Let's Build A World Part 2: Planning Your World and Building Your Base by Dennis Murphy

Building A Welded Rail Train by Dennis Murphy

The Grand Mesa by Andrew Jones

The Short & Nn3arrow Modelling the Pacific Coast Railway, Part 23: Shovel No. 1 by Thomas Knapp, MMR #101

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My girlfriend called me immature so I banned her from my cardboard box fort

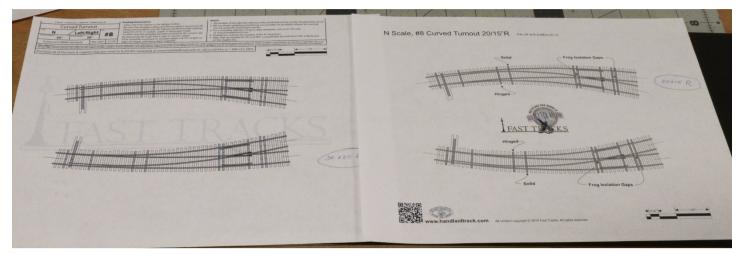


The WKR Scenery Crew were happily engaged in an upgrade scenery project, the molasses tanks, when a friend called with a special request. He had two store-bought track switches that were causing problems, and could we build two scratch-built switches? The answer, yes we can!

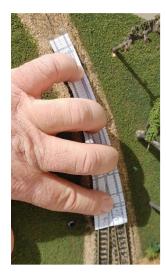


(Left) Since we have not produced any switches since the move from Garden City, we needed to gather the proper tools. First was a small work surface that is flat in all directions. Scrounging through Southerlands, we came across a short piece of laminated shelving that we checked with a

straight edge, and it was almost ideal. It was flat, smooth, rigid and would not warp.



(Above) The next issue was to print out several Fast Tracks paper templates to mail to the client so he could cut them out and determine exactly which size (radius) curved switches he needed.



(Left) The client received the templates in the mail, and after some test fitting, determined we needed two, different sizes of switches.

(Right) While we were waiting on the sizes needed, we placed an order for a few sticks of Atlas Code 80 flextrack, plus a few Caboose Industries manual switch throws.



(Right) Just like the Scouts, we were prepared with a supply of PC (printed circuit board) ties already cut. These were cut from a larger sheet obtained from Radio Shack into long strips the width of a N-scale tie. All we had to do was cut them into the specific lengths according to the template.





(Left) Another item from "the Shack" was a roll of silver bearing solder. This solder has a slightly higher melting temperature, but the silver gives the joints greater structural strength. This is just our preference.

(Right) The Weller soldering pencil was located along with the 1970 vintage holding stand.





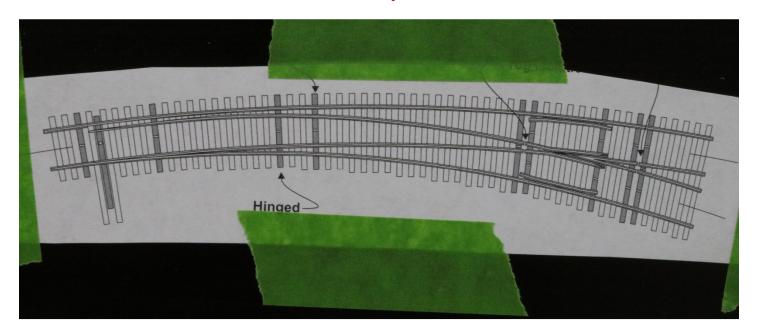
(Left) We also needed a tip cleaning device, and this is the one we use now, but back in ancient times, we used a damp sponge in a dish which is just as good.



(Left) Yet another item from "the Shack" is this tub of rosin soldering paste. (NEVER use acid flux or acid flux core solder, this is for plumbing only!!!) Why the tape? I'm glad you asked. Years ago, some of the flux got on the threads of the lid, and no matter what I did, it would not unscrew, so I used my Dremel tool with cut off disk to remove a triangle of the lid which is now covered by masking tape.

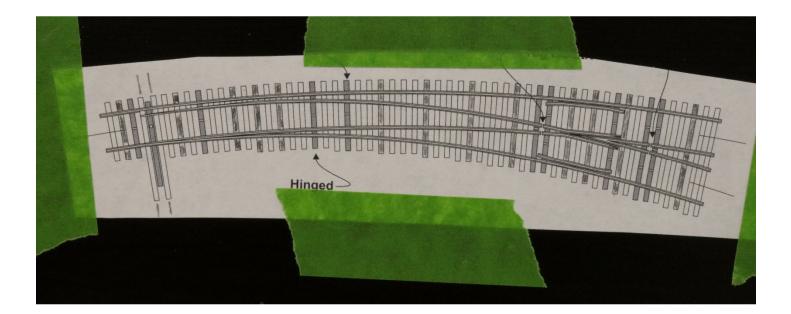
(Right) The cutting process (mini table saw) of the PC ties leaves burrs on the edges, so a flat sheet of sandpaper was used to remove all burrs and make all surfaces smooth.

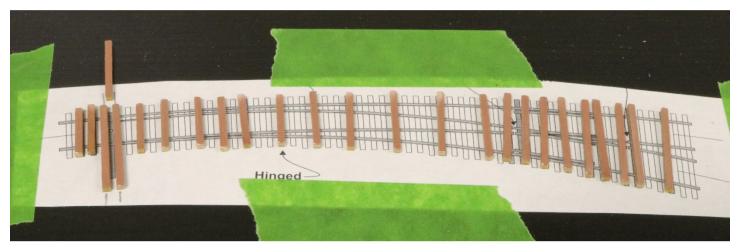




(Both) A tale of two photos. The top photo is of the original Fast Tracks paper template with the shaded ties indicating where they would utilize PC ties.

The bottom photo is of the same template however we decided to use many more PC ties, particularly on a curved switch. There are several reasons for this approach, but the two most important are these switches will be used on a traveling layout which is much more likely to be knocked around during transport, and two, more PC ties assure the rails will maintain the exact curvature and gauge throughout the switch even during extreme temperature swings which is possible during transport.





(Above) We're getting closer to the start, here the long PC ties are cut to specific length.

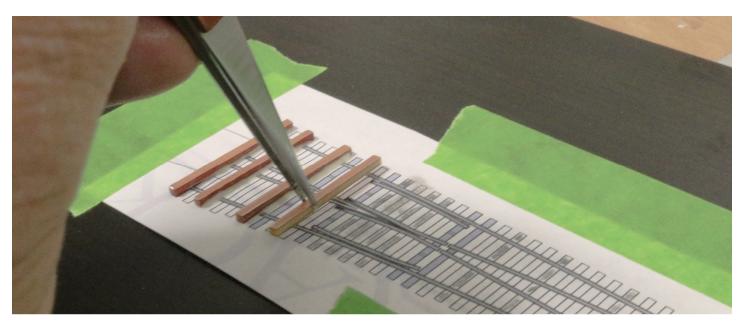


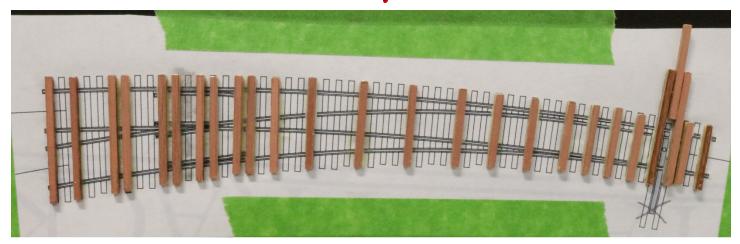
(left) We need to secure the PC ties to the paper template to prevent them shifting during construction, so we use regular carpenters glue to hold them in place.

(Right & Below) A small amount of glue is applied to some scrap paper, then using tweezers, each tie is drawn

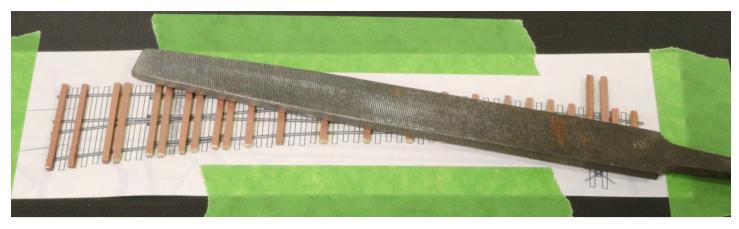
through the glue, then wiped on the empty part of the paper (you only need a thin film of glue), then is positioned on the proper spot on the template.







(Above) All of the PC ties are secured to the template (the throwbar is not glued).(Below) Once the glue has dried, we use a flat file to make sure everything is flat, and all burrs are removed.

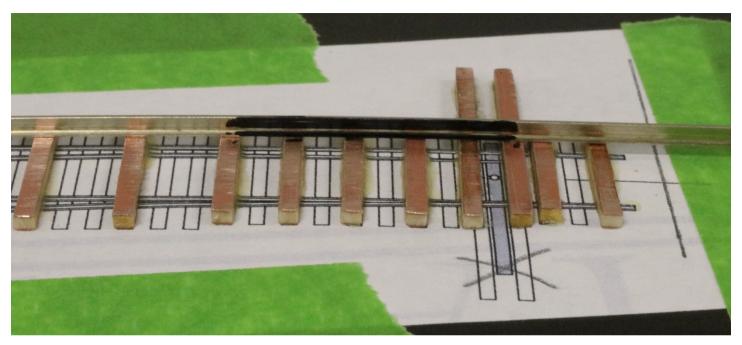




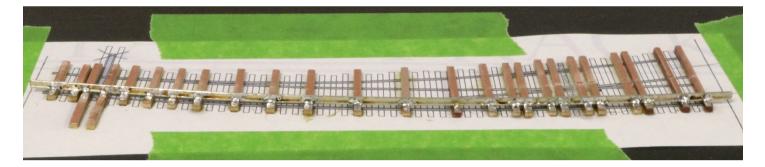
(left) A close look at the PC ties after filing. The shiny streaks are where burrs were removed.

(Right) At last, it's time to get started. We used one piece of Atlas Flextrack, and it is quite easy to slip the moving rail out of the plastic ties.

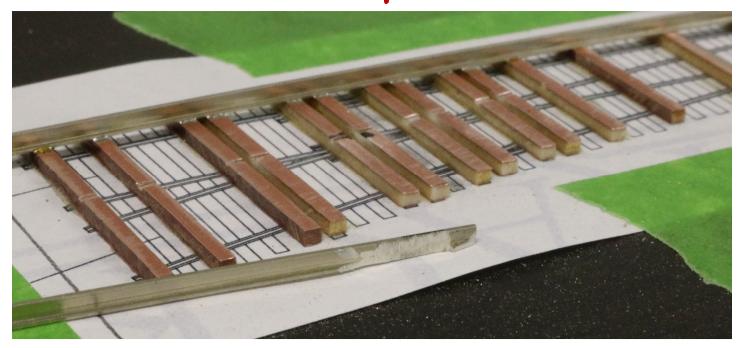




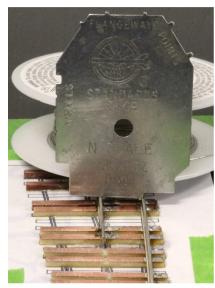
(Above) We cut a piece of rail slightly longer than we need which makes it easier to handle. Since we placed the last PC tie right near the ends of the rails, which would not allow enough room for the rail joiners, we drew a line to the right which will be the new end point for the rails. The first step is to per-curve the rail to match the template. Take your time and use light bends to avoid kinks until the rail matches the template. Next, we need to create a "pocket" for the points rail to slid into, so we used a Sharpie to mark the area to be reduced. Note the pocket extends a bit past the throwbar onto the headblock tie. Using mostly the Dremel Tool with cutoff disk, the inner rib is removed, and the pocket area is reduced to nearly half thickness at the throwbar.



(Above) The first rail is critical to be placed correctly as all future measurements are taken off this rail. Starting from the throwbar end, be sure the rail reaches the endline and the pocket aligns with the headblocks as marked, then tack the left end rail to the first tie and very slowly tack every other tie making sure the rail follows the template. Once completed, go back and properly solder all ties on the outside of the rail. Once the soldering is complete, use the flat file to remove all solder from the top of the rail and inside of the rail so the future measurements will be accurate to the rail.



(Above) Now we move on to the first frog rail. The method we use is to cut a small pocket just behind the point. To mate the two frog rails, we cut back the bottom rib and thin out the small pocket to about half thickness to allow the second rail to join without creating a bulge. Notice in the picture we used the Dremel and cutoff disk to slice the copper cladding down the center between the frog rails to prevent shorts. This will require soldering a portion of each frog rail on the inside of the rail where your soldering tip can't reach.

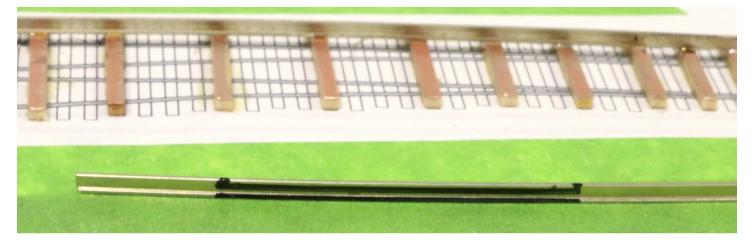


(left) The first frog rail must also be curved to match the outer stock rail before installation. Use the NMRA track gauge to maintain gauge while making sure the frog point matches the template frog point.



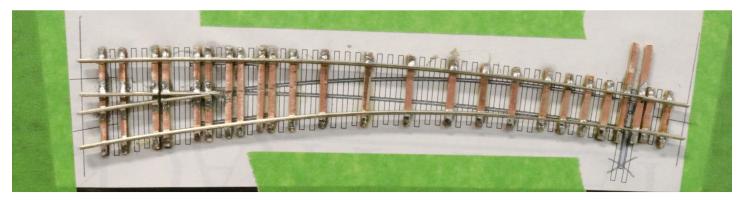
(Right) We added the second frog point rail with the tip nestled in the pocket. There is a small gap which we will fill with solder and file smooth. This is also

the time to use the Dremel to slice through both frog rails to create a "dead frog" or "insulfrog".



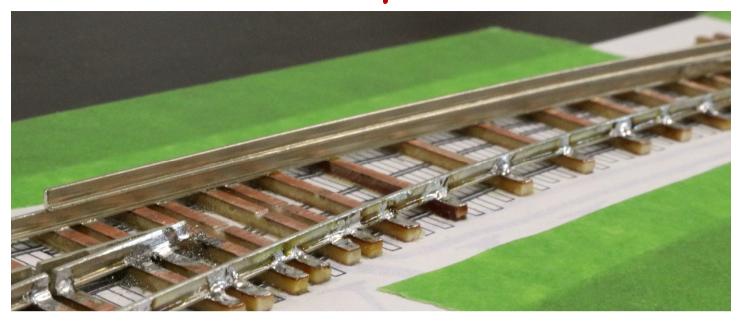
(Above) After pre-curving the second stock rail, we are ready to cut the points pocket as marked with the Sharpie.

(Below) Beginning at the points end, use the track gauge up to the pocket area (the pocket area will be wide on gauge because of the pockets but will be filled by the points rails). Follow the template in the center of the curve until the frog rails, then revert to using the track gauge for the rest.





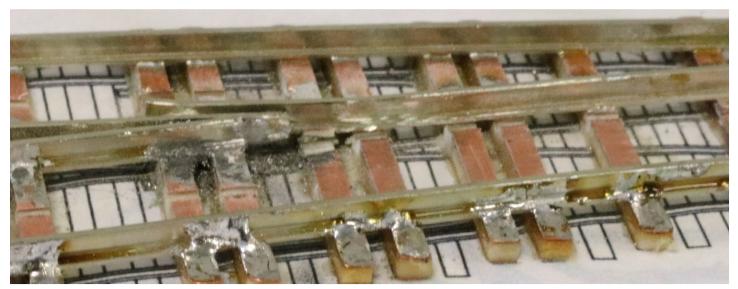
(Left) At this point we determined the soldering tip we had been using for some time was becoming pitted, so it was time for a change. It's a good idea to keep a few replacement tips on hand as they tend to wear out often. I discovered that Amazon carries quite an impressive line of soldering tools and supplies. In the case of this light-duty Weller model, changing tips is simply unscrewing the old one (make sure it's cold) and adding the new one. Having a clean soldering tip will make quite a difference in the quality of your soldering.



(Above) Time to move on to the inner points rail. Here we have pre-curved the rail and it lays on top of the stock rail to check the curve.

(Below) The first points rail is installed. The rail point fits into the stock rail pocket (not closed here), where the soldering tip can fit the rail is soldered on the outside of the rail and where it can't use the inside of the rail. Only solder the rail until the template indicates "hinge" to allow the points to swing.





(Above) Check everything twice before moving on to the next item. Here we found the gauge a bit narrow between the stock rail and the points rail at the bend. We used the Dremel to slightly thin the points rail to compensate.

(Below) The second points rail is added. Before adding the guard rails, slice through the points rails to complete the dead frog.

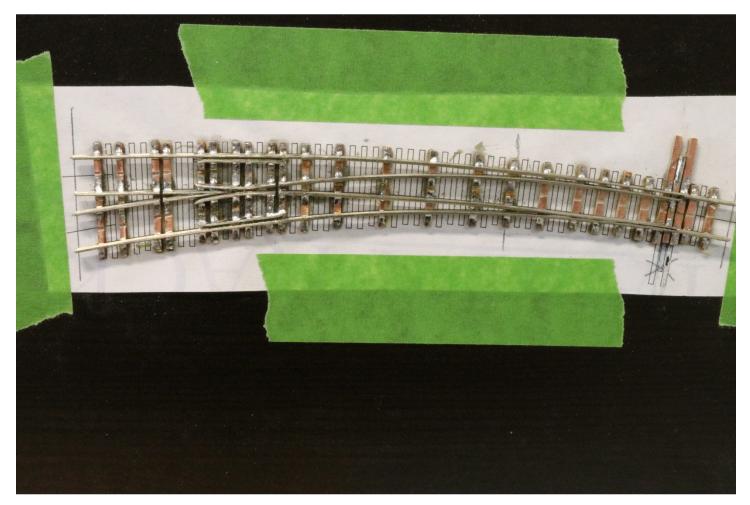




(Above) Both guard rails are now in place. Remember, even the guard rails must be pre-curved to fit the curvature at that point.



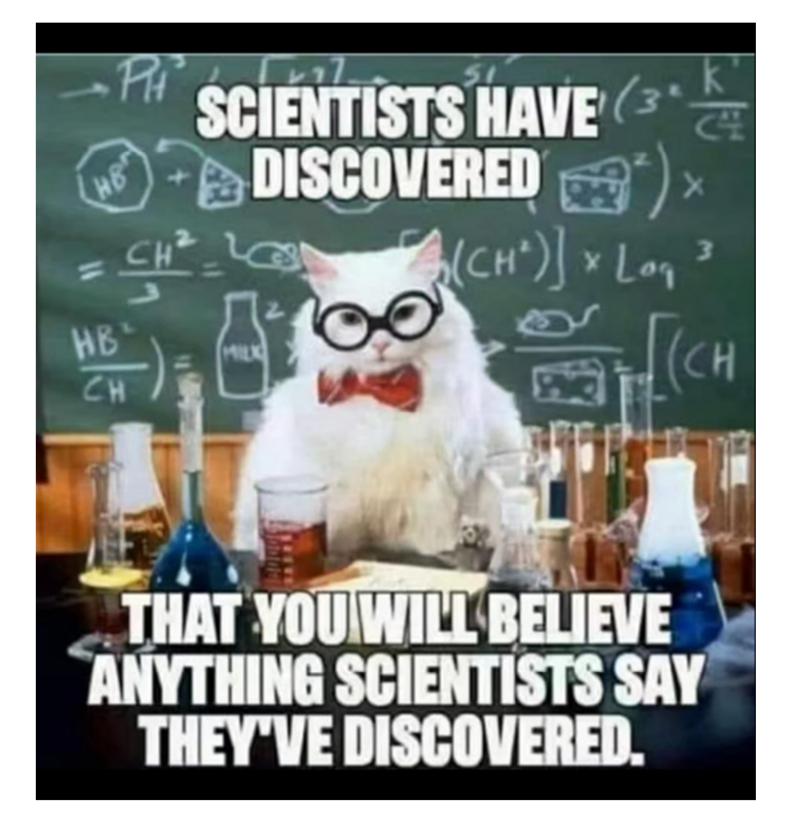
(Left) A close look at the points and throwbar. Prepare the throwbar using the sandpaper to make sure all four sides are smooth, and it slides between the headblocks smoothly. You can use either brass rod or steel piano wire bent into a "L" shape and solder to the outer end of the throwbar, this is where we will attach the Caboose Industries throw. Solder the ends of the points rails to the throwbar while in the open position (away from the stock rail) or solder may flow under and solder everything together. Once complete, check for a smooth throw and the points rails fit into the stock rail pockets completely or make the necessary adjustments.



(Above) Before you know it, you have a new track switch! One last item, use the Dremel again to slit the copper cladding on every PC tie including the throwbar or you will have an embarrassing short circuit. While it's still on the work bench, use a wheelset to run through in each direction to check for binding, dips, or bumps. Then use a truck from a three-axle locomotive and check again and make any adjustments.

(Right) Using these techniques, we have constructed over 100 switches for various layouts and this one on the WKR layout has been operating for over 10years. You can do it too.





(MIDWEST)

MODEL RAILROAD

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N Scale Co

Coming Soon Scenery

Assembly Tools

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HO Scale - Alas GE U30B

- Burlington Northern (BN)
- · Central of Georgia Railroad (CG)
- Chessie (C&O)
- · CSX (CSXT)
- · Georgia Central Railway (GC)
- · National of Mexico (NdeM)
- · Norfolk & Western (NW)
- Western Pacific (WP)



N Scale - Atlas FM H15, H16-44

- · Central of New Jersey (CNJ)
- Long Island (LI)
- New Haven (NH)
- New York Central (NYC)
- Pennsylvania (PRR)
- Rock Island (CRIP)
- Southern (SOU)
- Union Pacific (UP)



How to Determine How Much Track You Need for Your Model Railroad Layout, ...

For the MMR website, click here: <u>https://midwestmodelrr.com/</u>

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This channel is about Model Railroading in general, and specifically the antics of the West ...more

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Switching On The WKR Nscale Layout - Session 3 -...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYlPkIdnolU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNO5EJT28YY



Model Train Technology Speed Stick Demo



WKR Update 2-26-25

:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YbpOMBeu7Q



Announcements

The 2025 First Quarter issue of the <u>Caboose</u> <u>Kibitzer</u> is available. Thanks to Patrick Hiatte for his work and please send him your articles!

Thanks to Robert Simmons for making the <u>January 2025</u> <u>issue of the Main Line</u> available!

Welcome to the Mid-Continent Region of the National Model Railroad Association

A 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, MCoR includes the southern half of the state of Iowa, portions of Illinois, and the entire states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Since 1990, MCoR's leadership has fostered a strong program of developing local divisions with the purpose of bringing the potential for NMRA activity and involvement to a community near you. From only two divisions in 1990 located in metropolitan areas, MCoR now has well over a dozen divisions and over 900 members.

Click here to join the NMRA or renew your membership!

Upcoming Events

 Hold the dates for the 2025 Convention in Kansas
City! See the <u>Convention</u> <u>Notice</u> and <u>Registration</u> Form.

If you have an event you want mentioned here or in the <u>Calendar</u>, please send it to the <u>webmaster</u>.

Click here for the MCoR website: <u>http://mcor-nmra.org/</u>



Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

O Public group · 808 members





Click here for the MCoR Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077



Chicago & North Western Historical Society



The **Chicago & North Western Historical Society** was founded in 1973 by a group of Midwestern railfans interested in the C&NW, along with its predecessor and successor roads. These roads include the Chicago, St. Paul Minneapolis & Omaha; the Minneapolis & St. Louis; the Chicago Great Western; the Litchfield & Madison; the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern; the Des Moines & Central Iowa; and many more.

The Society's purpose is to collect, circulate and preserve the history of the C&NW and its predecessor and successor lines; to create and publish a magazine; and to promote fellowship among C&NW fans and Society Members.



"Welcome To Iowa" 2025 C&NWHS Convention Boone/Des Moines, Iowa May 30-31, 2025

Click here for the C&NWHS website: <u>https://cnwhs.org/wp1/</u>

For the Facebook page of the C&NWHS, click here: <u>https://www.facebook.com/@cnwhs</u>

free-mo.org FREE-MO More than Just a Standard



The Latest in HO Scale Modular Model Railroading

Free-mo was developed with the idea that a set of standards focusing on module endplates would enable faithful modeling of prototype track plans and operations in a modular environment. The length and track configuration of a Free-mo module or module set is up to the modeler. Free-mo takes the boredom out of running trains monotonously around a double or even a triple track mainline. With Free-mo, less is more.

Free-mo operates like a permanent or sectional layout but still retains its modularity (Free-mo is more modular than existing double track modules). Free-mo layouts are operated with a single track mainline in a point to loop, loop to loop, or point to point. Layout sizes can vary to any size conceivable.

The Free-mo mainline is centered on a two-foot end so modules can be inverted 180 degrees and still mate up to the adjacent module without modification to wiring or track. The Free-mo mainline also takes advantage of stronger industry support of code 83 rail.

Click here to find out more: <u>https://free-mo.org/</u>



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way equipment on his N scale freelanced Tenino Western. All this and more in the March issue of Railroad Model Craftsman! RMC RECEIVING YARD

New and Improved GP38-2s from Athearn Genesis

MARCH 2025: We return to northwestern Maine and explore the operations of the Oxford County Railroad, and protofreelanced short line that connects to Mike Confalone's Allagash Railway. Alan Mende shows us his technique for scratchbuilding Jersey Central iron ore hoppers, while Tyler Whitcomb reviews some of the non-revenue maintenance of

Now at your favorite dealer from Athearn are premium Genesisseries HO scale EMD GP38-2s available in a multitude of variations with road-specific, era-specific and unit-specific details.

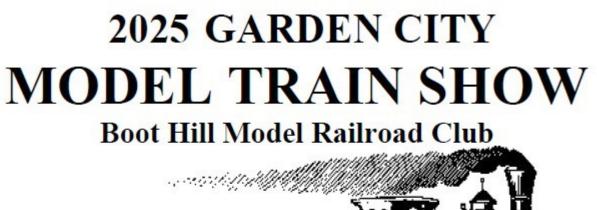
RMC EXTRA BOARD

Allagash Railway, Part 2: Oxford County Short Line

The HO scale proto-freelanced Oxford County Railroad is modeled after New England short lines of the 1980s, and connects with the Allagash Railway.



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BIGGEST LITTLE TRAIN SHOW AROUND

Operating Layouts Train Vendors Lunch Counter

Admission: \$6 for adults Children 10 and under free with adult admission

For more information contact:

Jim Adams 620-290-1054 adamsarabians@hotmail.com

Steve Weidner 620-290-1862 sweidner@ucom.net Mark Fisher 620-260-5560 markfish@ucom.net

Robert Hahn 620-271-8365 robertlh@wbsnet.org

We ask that all Covid-19 precautions be taken when visiting the show

Check us out at: https://www.facebook.com/BootHillModelRailroadClub

Benefitting Mosaic of Garden City

2024 Layout Design and Operations Weekend

Hosted by Indian Nations Division, NMRA Friday, March 22, 2024 - Sunday, March 24, 2024

Welcome! We are pleased and excited to announce to you the upcoming LAYOUT DESIGN AND OPERATIONS WEEKEND to be held on March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of 2024. We will have three operating events, one each on Friday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday Morning. There are 12-14 great layouts in the Tulsa Area to choose from. Our Saturday morning and afternoon seminar will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. A catered lunch will be served in the basement of the Akdar Shrine Center and is included in the \$40 registration fee. Bring your track plans, photos, display boards and mockups to share with everyone. Great place to solicit feedback on your layout.

Registration is handled via the event website: https://ldopsigmeet.tulsanmra.org/

For more information, click here: https://www.operatingsessions.com/Event/N2NVZZ



March

8th & 9th 2025 Garden City Model Train Show West Pavillion - Finney County Fairgrounds Sat & Sun

2025 Arkansas City Train Show

Greater Tulsa Area Train Show

https://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/

http://www.wichitatovtrainmuseum.org/

 $22^{nd} - 24^{th}$ Layout Design & Operations Weekend Tulsa, OK. Fri – Sun Indian Nations Division - https://www.operatingsessions.com/Event/N2NVZZ

Arkansas City, KS.

Broken Arrow, OK.

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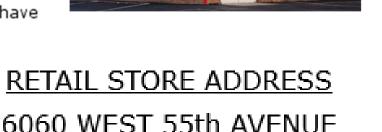
We want to buy your stuff!

N Scale Supply is looking to buy collections, large and small, or just extra stuff you may have click for details

RETAIL STORE HOURS

MON-FRI 10AM to 6PM SAT 10AM to 4PM SUNDAY - CLOSED

https://www.nscalesupply.com/nscalesupply.html

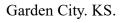


ARVADA, COLORADO 80002





Date Book



19th

Saturday

25th & 26th Fri & Sat

My new car has a button for pretty much everything. There's even one that says 'rear wiper' still too afraid to try that one....



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