

Plan & Build Your Layout

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How much Room?

- I've a spare room: dimensions X by Y
- My garage: if heated, a pull down
- My attic: how about a hinged affair
- A shelf or two on my office wall
- A cabinet in the dining room
- An end table in the living room
- She says with your next wife !

How much Money?

- My budget is limited: < \$500 per year
- My budget is limited: < \$1000 per year
- My budget is limited: ~ \$5,000 per year
- My budget is unreasonably tight: like old jeans
- My budget is loose... like a Washington budget
- I'm man of the house... don't tell Marge or Carol
- She says we've enough for a trip to Sugar Camp

How about time?

- Big layouts take time.. (so, join a club..)
- Little layouts take time also..
- When would I like one train running?
- More than one? Lots? Hmmmm.
- Work alone best? Or with others?
- One man one hour, two men two hours
- Regular hours? Odd hours? Vacations?

Support?

- My buddy helps me get work done..
- We've a partnership.. My \$ his labor
- We both run our stuff here..
- My wife and the older kids help
- My wife gets mad when I don't clean up
- Dust is an issue: allergy problems..
- Can't paint: smells: Can't hammer: noise

Plans for Round & Round

- Most start as 4 x 8 size
- In O gauge that would be an oval or two
- In HO gauge the Gorre & Daphetid fit 4 x 8
- In N gauge it's an empire
- In Z gauge it's two empires
- Most layouts have round & round
- Keep some version in any final plan

I Cannot See Well

- Z is too small
- N too is small but works
- HO is small but I cannot see the rivets
- S is much better
- O is great but I can't afford the space
- G is perfect but I've an apartment
- Think I'll have an eye exam..

Switching Layout

- After a few round and round sessions then the turnout becomes a fun addition...
- After a few sessions you'll start to make and break freight trains at mythical businesses
- Then, you might make a few passenger stops
- And, you might want to try them together..
- And, you might ask friends over...
- Operating sessions are organized railroading

My hands shake a bit

- I can see well enough but my hands shake
- I can run trains, teach, dispatch, write stories
- I can build scenery, ballast, spread grass, etc
- I cannot build a box car.. & bigger is easier
- I'm best with a team of model builders
- I do love rail-fan trips and my photos are good
- In short... my railroading fun is changing

Mountain Layout

- Mountain layouts are fun if you've room
- You can hide trains in mountains
- You can emphasize logging, mining, farms
- Short trains, sharp curves, seep grades
- Mixed freight, small towns, short sidings
- Dirt and disorder prevail: non modern
- Narrow gauge and conventional work..

City Layout

- Much more detail than the mountain layout
- Here, the challenge is building buildings
- Period or era becomes obvious with cars
- Excellent example: George Sellios, his *Franklin and South Manchester Railroad* is famous
- *If you enjoy details... this is a way!*

Midwest Towns

- Rolling landscape, small towns, little businesses
- Perfect for a switching layout and passenger stops
- Minimum construction of table, easy track-support
- Combine round and round with switching
- Long and short trains, intermodal, all potential

Summary

- It is all about learning a new technique
- Sharing an idea... trying an idea
- Making a new friend.. Keeping friends
- Laugh at your own failings... try again
- Encourage others... push yourself further
- Learn.. Relearn..
- Do stuff.. Build your dream..