Helping You Build The Model Railroad of Your Dreams...

www.ModelTrainsForBeginners.com

Model Trains For Beginners

The Decision Process

SPACE

How much space do you have available?

Limited Space

Here are some ideas:

Drop down layout

This is a layout that lowers down from the ceiling or roof.

Shelf layout

This layout can be installed at eye level in any room.

Coffee table layout

This is usually a Z scale layout inside a coffe table insert.

Dedicated area.

Some things to consider:

Ambient temperature of area

A large temperature variation between the seasons will expand and contract items of your model railroad at different rates. This could cause problems.

Humidity of area

Timber will absorb moisture and swell, creating another problem.

Dust

Not only does dust on your scenery make it look dull and dirty but you could have conductivity isssues on your track.

Spiders & Critters

Giant spider webs don't look realistic on your model railroad.

Access

You need most things at arm's length on your model railroad. There is nothing worse than trying to retrieve a derailed car that you can'' easily reach.

TIME

How much time do you have available?

Start Small, Then Expand

Frustration and dissatisfaction will creep in if you have planned a large layout and you just don't get the time to finish it. It is a better option to start smaller and then expand if you have the spare time.

Which Scale?

O scale - 1:48

S scale - 1:64

OO scale (UK) - 1:76

HO scale (popular) - 1:87

N scale - 1:160

Z scale - 1:220

>> more on scales here

This is how to decide:

Comfort

You need to work with a scale that you are comfortable with. Detailing a z scale car requires fairly good eyesight and a steady hand. While detailing HO scale is easier because it is bigger and easier to hold.

Space

HO scale (OO in the UK) is poular because you can have a reasonable sized layout on a 4 x 8 bench. However if you live in a small apartment and wanted a similar sized layout, N scale would be better .

Accessories

HO scale (OO scale in the UK) is more poular so naturally more accessories are available.

BUDGET

What budget do you have available?

Buy New

- Hobby Shop
- Model Train Show
- Online

Buy Used

- eBay
  >> Model Train Stuff
- Model Train Show
- Local Model Train Club
  >> The Model Train Club
- Online

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