

10 Proven Lionel Fastrack Plans

From the Experts at *Classic Toy Trains*





Figure-eight schemes can be more than just a gimmick. Here, a 5½-inch-high overpass helps keep trains in continuous motion, without the peril of operating through a 90-degree crossing

Room to expand this railroad comes by way of a spur that runs to the edge of the layout. If you have space in the corner of a room, you can easily form an L-shaped pike by adding another 4 x 8-foot board

Scenery and structures for the railroad should fit the mountain railroad theme dictated by the tight-radius curves and changing elevations. Also consider using smaller Plasticville structures to make the most of the limited space

This short industrial spur also provides means for point-to-point operation to the spur situated below. With the addition of a command-control system, you can even consider two-train operation



Lionel FasTrack O-36 curves form the majority of the layout, so it seems logical to develop a layout theme and scenery where sharp curves are expected – a rustic setting in the hills or a busy mine operation are two fitting choices

A 4 percent grade routes trains up, down, and around the curves at each end of the layout. Don't have a computer or slide rule handy to calculate the proper track elevations? Simply use Woodland Scenics' foam incline and riser components

A passing siding doesn't have to be on the straight and narrow. In this instance, I placed a train-length siding along a curve. It's near the outer edge of the layout, so restricted speed operation is a must. Don't forget, you can also use this location to reverse the direction of your train – just be sure to use a locomotive with operating couplers on each end

7 SMALL LAYOUTS BIG ACTION proven plans FOR SMALL SPACES

LIONEL FASTRACK PLANS RANGING FROM 4 X 8 TO 5 X 9 FEET

by **Kent Johnson and David Baran** • Illustrations by Kellie Jaeger

Nearly all of us have dreamt of building a large toy train layout. The stark reality is that many of us lack the real estate, resources, or time for such an endeavor. But there's no reason to be disappointed. The process of designing, building, and operating a small layout is often more fulfilling than the long grind to completing a large layout!

Small layout smorgasbord

For the purpose of this salute to the small layout, David Baran and I present a smorgasbord of compact O gauge

track plans using Lionel FasTrack. For starters, I composed a 4 x 8-foot plan that has the initial appearance of a simple figure-eight scheme, but look closer. You'll see that the Blue Creek Ry. features an overpass rather than a typical 90-degree crossing that limits the length of your trains.

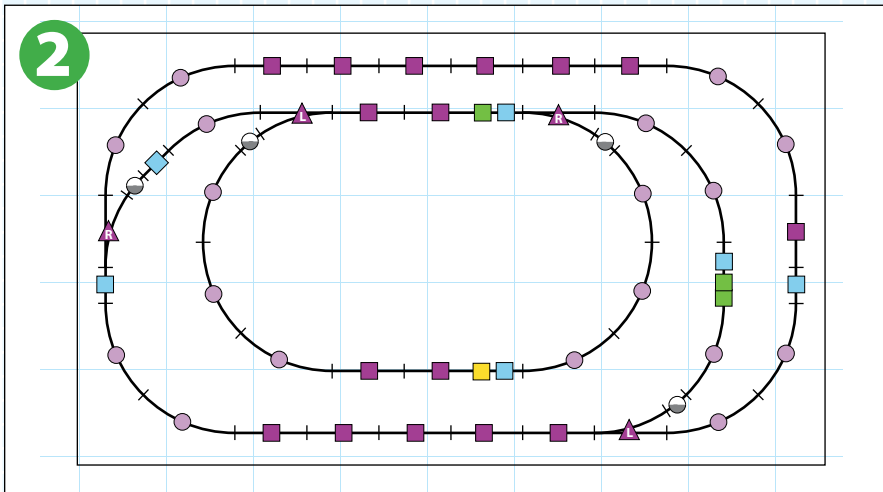
In addition to my simple scheme, David presents a spread of six other plans that are deceptively basic. Be sure to read the annotations – they'll help you find many of the simple pleasures associated with building and operating a small layout! **CTT**

LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
2	1.75-inch straight (12026)
1	4.5-inch straight (12025)
6	10-inch straight (12014)
14	O-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
3	O-36 curve, 22.5-degree (12022)
3	O-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
3	O-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
1	O-36 right-hand track switch (12046)
1	bumper (12059)

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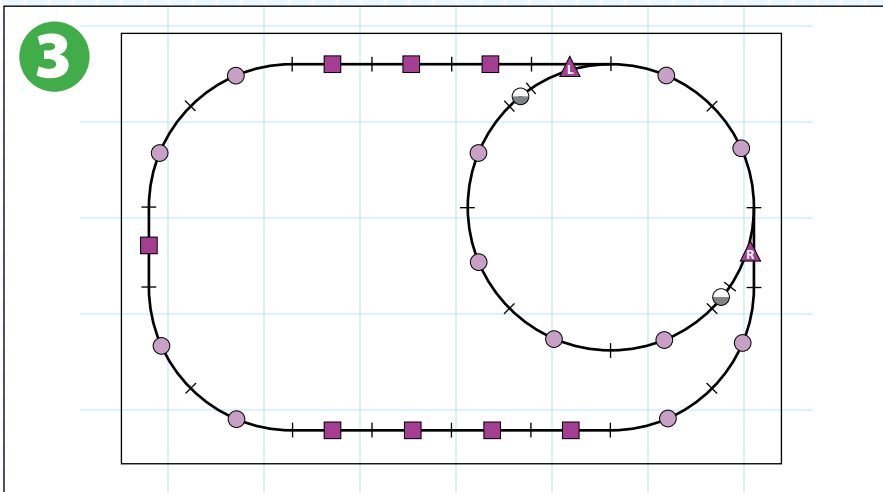
Download a template of the Blue Creek Ry. by going to ClassicToyTrains.com and clicking on "Train Layouts." And then clicking on "Layout Construction and Wiring."



LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
1	1.375-inch straight (12073)
3	1.75-inch straight (12026)
6	5-inch straight (12024)
16	10-inch straight (12014)
4	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
18	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
2	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
2	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)

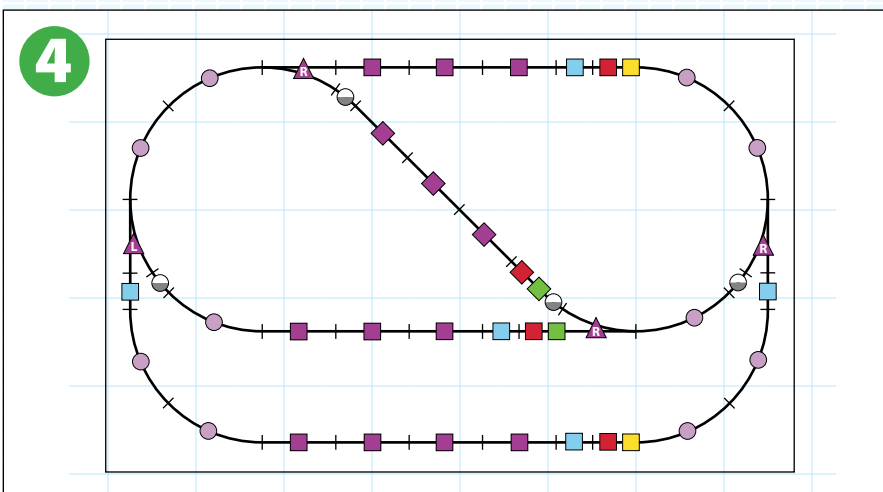
Two loops make up this 5 x 9-foot layout that can easily run two trains at once. With connecting track switches, trains can move between the loops for plenty of action. There's even room to include operating accessories.



LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
8	10-inch straight (12014)
2	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
12	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
1	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
1	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)

This simple oval with a secondary loop is perfect for construction under a Christmas tree. Place the tree stand inside the small circle of track and add a Christmas village. Santa will never want to leave your house!

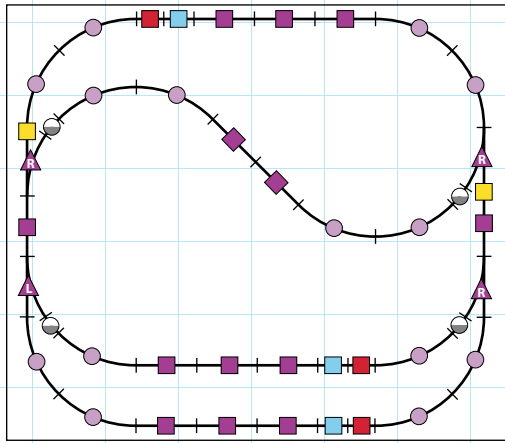


LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
2	1.375-inch straight (12073)
2	1.75-inch straight (12026)
4	4.5-inch straight (12025)
5	5-inch straight (12024)
13	10-inch straight (12014)
4	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
10	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
1	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
3	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)

A large oval with an inner siding and reversing loop will provide plenty of action on this 5 x 8-foot layout. By installing a few track switches along the reversing loop cut-off, you can add a small yard on the inner loop.

5

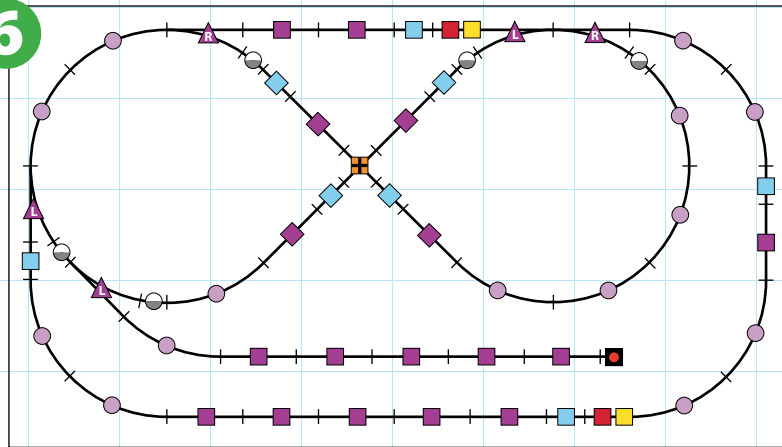


LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
2	1.375-inch straight (12073)
3	4.5-inch straight (12025)
3	5-inch straight (12024)
13	10-inch straight (12014)
4	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
14	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
1	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
3	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)

This larger oval is a great starting point. It provides lots of open space at the center of the layout, so you can consider adding yard tracks or building a town or industry. By including a reversing loop and passing siding, nothing gets shortchanged here!

6

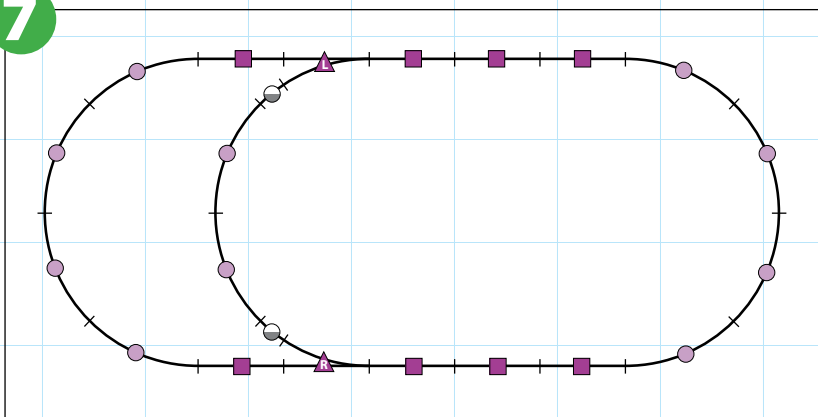


LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
2	1.375-inch straight (12073)
2	4.5-inch straight (12025)
8	5-inch straight (12024)
17	10-inch straight (12014)
5	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
14	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
3	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
2	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)
1	90-degree crossing (12019)
1	bumper (12035)

What began as a Lionel no. 12030 figure-eight add-on pack has expanded to include a large siding and loop. A long straight section and extra switches offer reversing options and multiple routes for your trains to travel. Add a few accessories for more fun.

7

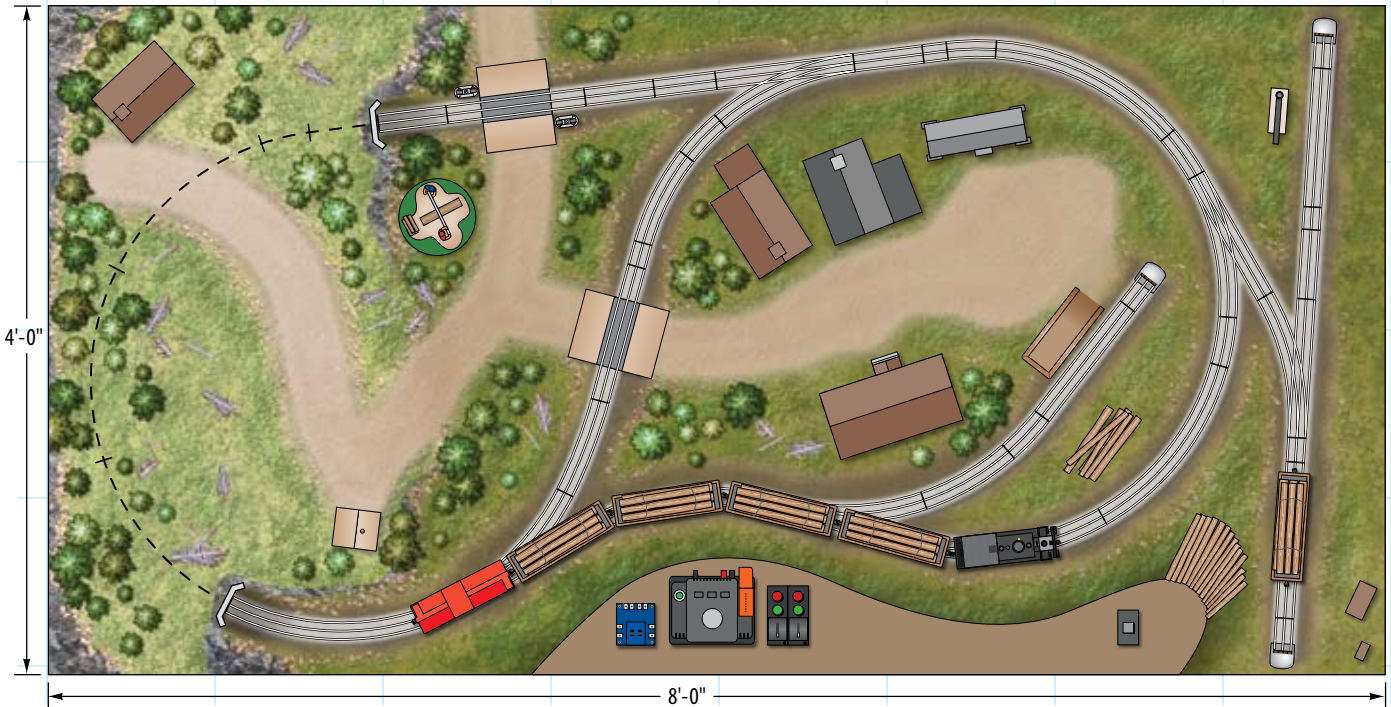
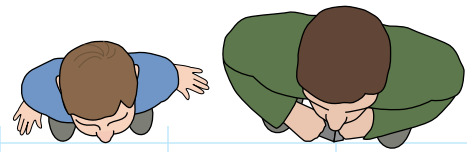


LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

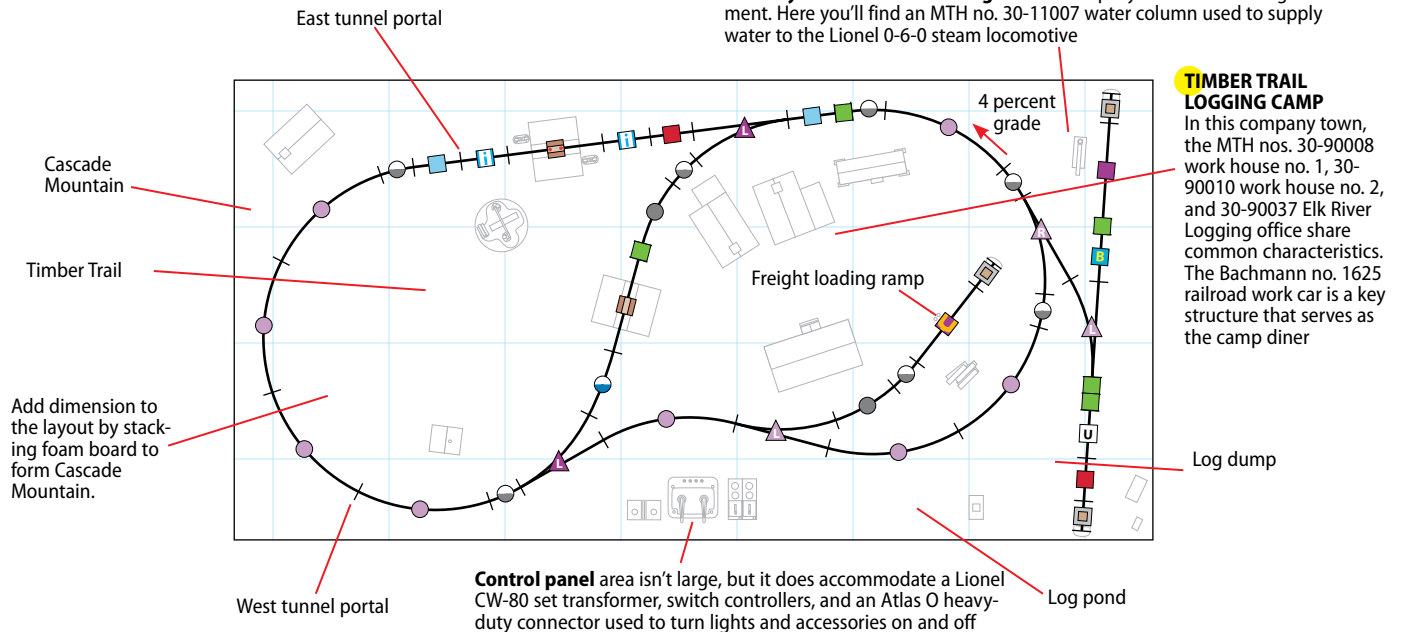
Quantity	Description/Number
8	10-inch straight (12014)
2	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
10	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
1	0-36 left-hand track switch (12045)
1	0-36 right-hand track switch (12046)

This layout will fit on a single sheet of plywood or foam insulation board and offers a wide variety of options for future expansion. Add another sheet of plywood to form an L-shaped railroad that fits nicely into a corner.

Lionel Fastrack



C&TT Ry. locomotive-servicing area is a simple yet essential arrangement. Here you'll find an MTH no. 30-11007 water column used to supply water to the Lionel 0-6-0 steam locomotive

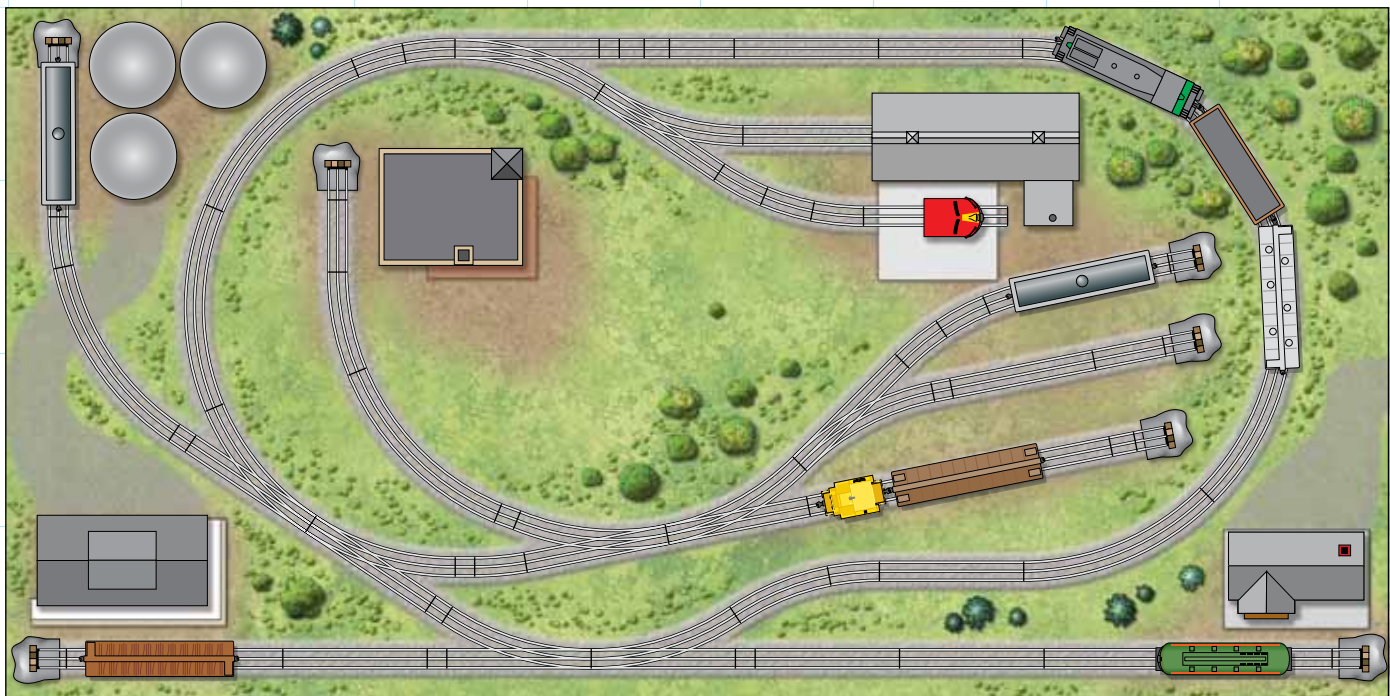


TIMBER TRAIL LOGGING CAMP
In this company town, the MTH nos. 30-90008 work house no. 1, 30-90010 work house no. 2, and 30-90037 Elk River Logging office share common characteristics. The Bachmann no. 1625 railroad work car is a key structure that serves as the camp diner

LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number	Quantity	Description/Number
5	1.75-inch straight (12026)	1	0-36 manual right-hand turnout (12018)
2	4.5-inch straight (12025)	2	0-36 remote left-hand turnout (12045)
2	5-inch straight (12024)	1	5-inch uncoupler (12020)
1	10-inch straight (12014)	2	5-inch isolator (12029)
7	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)	1	5-inch block section (12060)
2	0-36 curve, 22.5-degree (12022)	1	10-inch terminal straight (12016)
8	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)	1	grade crossing (12036)
1	0-72 curve, 11.25-degree (12055)	1	grade crossing with flashers (12062)
2	0-36 manual left-hand turnout (12017)	3	track bumper (12059)

TRACK PLAN OF THE MONTH



Industrial mite

SMALL MOTIVE POWER HAS PLENTY OF ROOM TO ROAM ON THIS 4 X 8-FOOT O GAUGE TRACK PLAN

By Kent Johnson • Illustrations by Kellie Jaeger

An Allegheny, a Big Boy, a Centipede, and a DD40X. They make up just a sampling of the gargantuan O gauge locomotive offerings that have inspired toy train operators to plan and sometimes build layouts of equally epic proportions. But how many of us are motivated to “think small” when we’re enamored of a diminutive diesel or slight steamer?

Although I initially had doubts about this approach, the process of building CTT’s recent Readers’ Choice Railroad (see February through September 2011 issues of *Classic Toy Trains*) helped convince me otherwise. After operating Ready Made Trains by Aristo-Craft (RMT) “Beep” locomotives on the 4 x 8-foot O gauge layout, I began to see how a compact layout might complement a tiny train. Then, with the

arrival of the Lionel no. 28450 CP Rail Trackmobile (see Bob Keller’s review in the July 2011 issue), I was ready and rarin’ to start planning a small, yet fully functional, O gauge layout specifically intended for this “Industrial Mite!”

Down to size

I started sketching this track plan with the thought that a basic point-to-point scheme might be the most appropriate environment for my new favorite



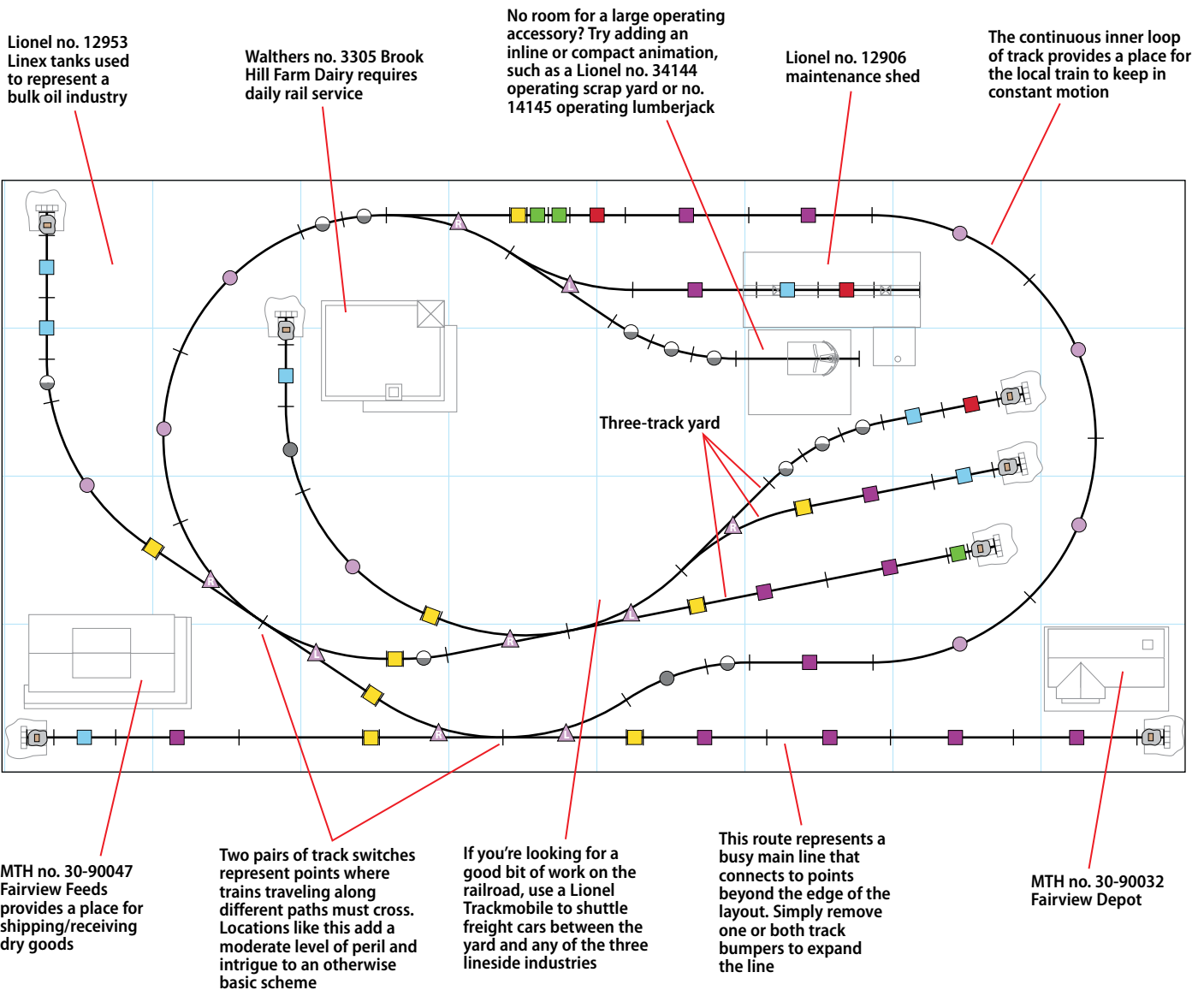
motorized unit. But even though I enjoyed operating the Trackmobile along the K-Line SuperStreets on our Readers’ Choice layout extension (see the September 2011 issue), I wondered if most operators would soon long for a continuous route. That’s when I challenged myself to design a small layout featuring both types of operation.

Working within the borders of a single 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood, I included several rail-served industries, a locomotive/car maintenance facility, a yard, and a loop of track that permits unimpeded operation. Though it would have been easy to employ tight-radius O-27 track and switches, I instead chose to work with our readers’ favorite Lionel FasTrack system. A loop of broader O-36 curves and track switches will extend to the outer edges of the

ON THE WEB



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tabletop, but the ability to run more standard-sized trains made the decision easier to endure.

'Round & round to & fro

The Trackmobile is best suited for shunting one or two cars from the compact, three-track yard to any of the three distinct industries. By design, it can access two of the three industrial sidings without traversing the mainline loop. An operator can make a job out of swapping empty cars with loaded ones and then return the unit to the maintenance facility at the end of the day.

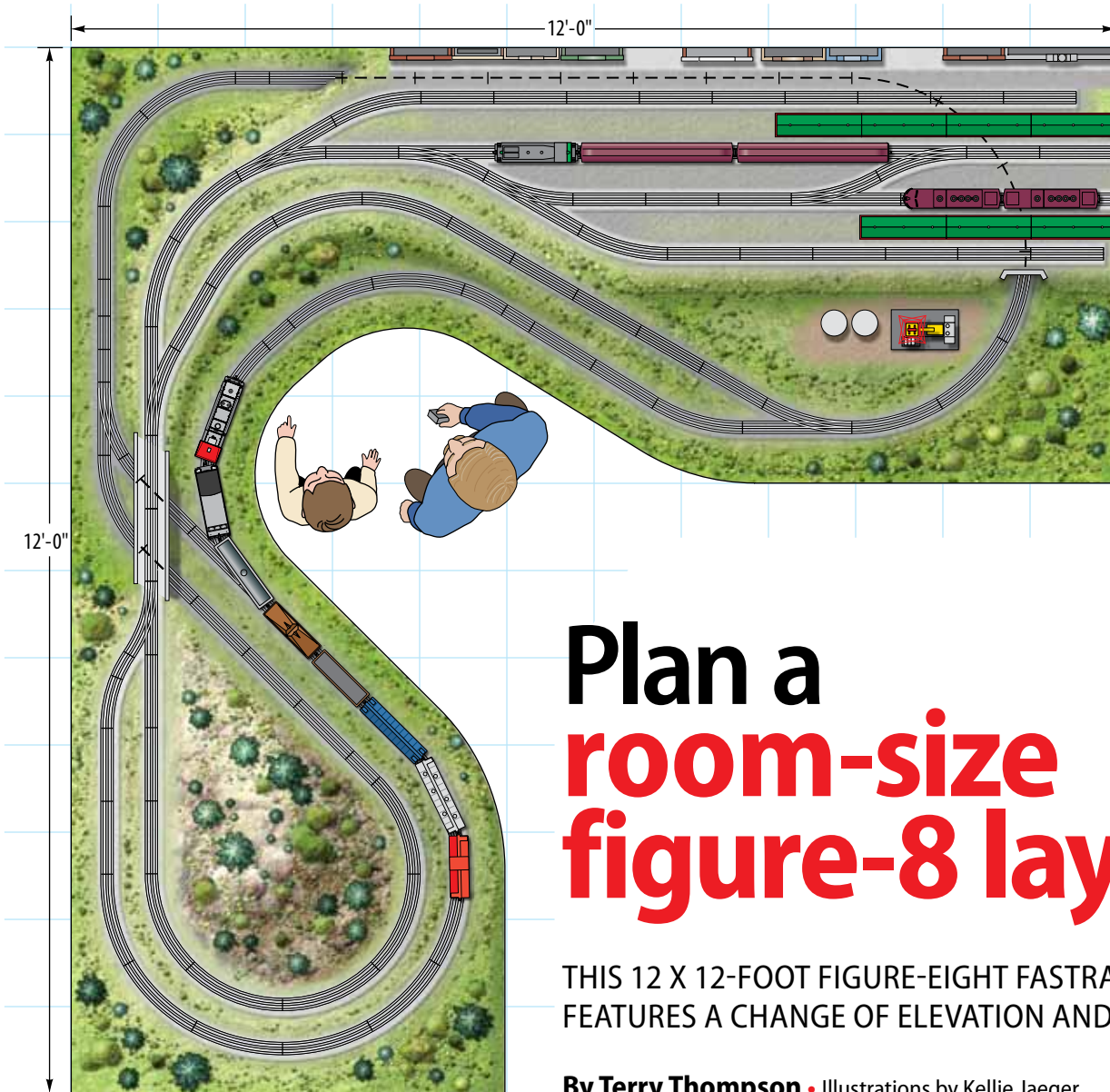
Next, it's time for the local job, perhaps led by a small diesel switcher, to drop off and pick up freight cars spotted in the yard. That's where the continuous operation over the loop of track comes into play.

Of course, the ultimate challenge is to perform both jobs at the same time, which is possible if you've wired the layout for control using two separate electrical blocks and a transformer with twin throttles, or you've installed a command-control system.

Despite the industrial slant to this O gauge layout, there's still plenty of opportunity to incorporate passenger service. Perhaps the simplest option is to add a trolley equipped with a bumper reverse mechanism. Set it on the main line at the front edge of the layout, and you've effectively added a third train to the action! If you prefer a more versatile mainline people mover, a Budd Rail Diesel Car (RDC) from Lionel, MTH, or RMT will be ideal for getting laborers closer to the industries along this not-so-big yet bustling scheme. **CTT**

LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
9	1.375-inch fitter (12000X)
3	1.75-inch straight (12026)
3	4.5-inch straight (12025)
7	5-inch straight (12024)
12	10-inch straight (12014)
8	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
2	0-36 curve, 22.5-degree (12022)
11	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
4	0-36 left-hand manual switch (12017)
5	0-36 right-hand manual switch (12018)
8	bumper (12059)



Plan a room-size figure-8 layout

THIS 12 X 12-FOOT FIGURE-EIGHT FASTRACK PLAN FEATURES A CHANGE OF ELEVATION AND SCENERY

By Terry Thompson • Illustrations by Kellie Jaeger

Looking for a room-sized layout with space for scenery, room for trains to roll, plus a passenger depot (or freight yard, if you prefer)? Then this 12 x 12-foot O gauge track plan, made with Lionel FasTrack, may be exactly right for you.

While the plan forms an L shape, it's actually a modified figure-eight scheme, with an overpass at the center of the action. The cutoff that runs along the front of the layout lets you run out-and-back, and a passing siding allows for running one train in both directions or two in the same direction. About the only thing this design doesn't have is an area that's filled with accessories, although it would be simple to add a few in the rail yard.

Any track that's on a grade is at the front of the layout, and all the track switches (O-36 and O-48) are within arm's reach. There's one hidden track, under the town area, but you can easily construct the benchwork to provide access to that track from underneath. The town area can be built as a four-track passenger station, a four-track yard, or some combination of the two. Use the two tracks with the "locomotive escape" crossover for arrivals and the other two for departures or as your coach yard.

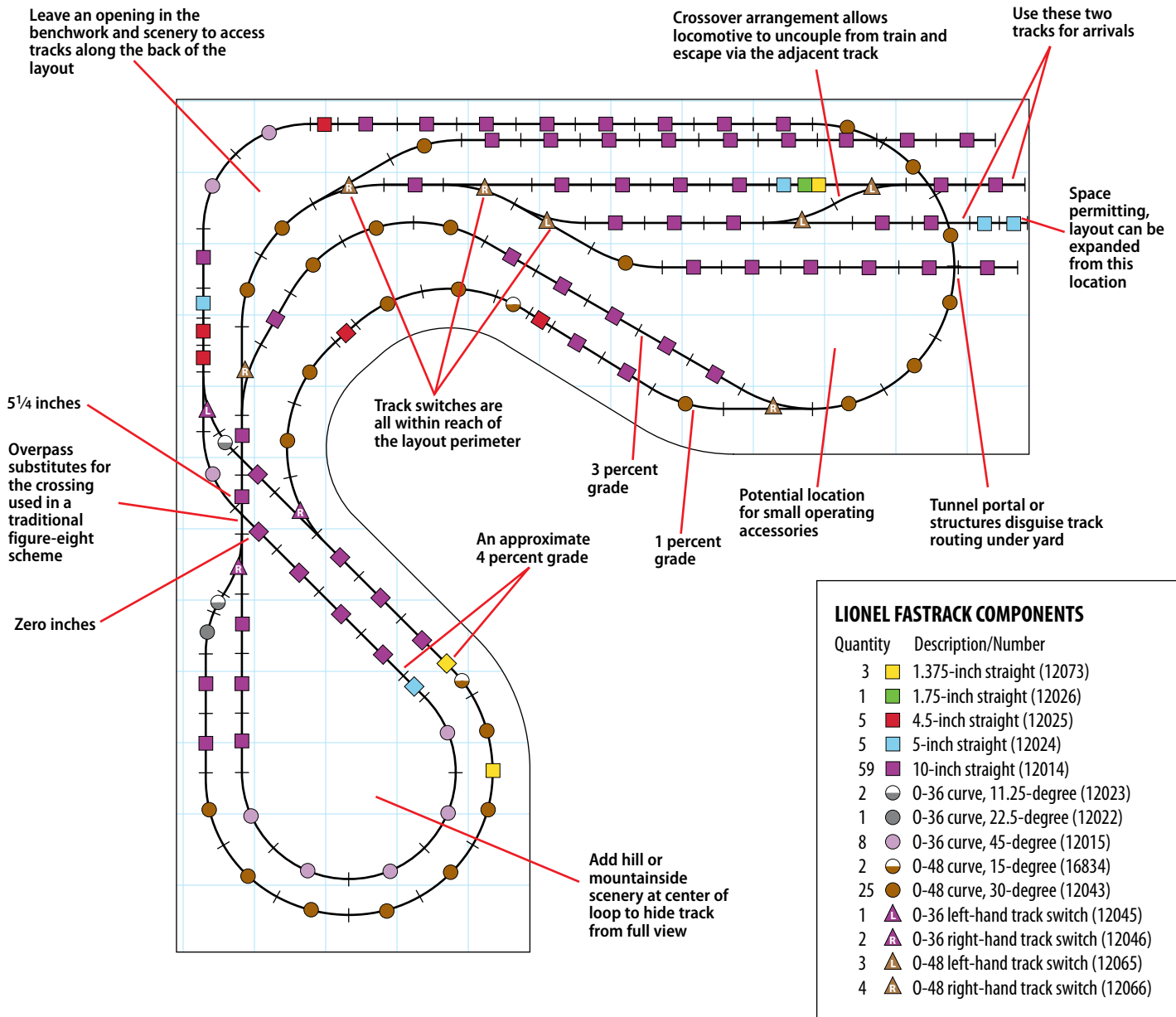
The only way to turn a locomotive is by using the cutoff track and one of the loops. However, it will be a simple project to extend the benchwork a bit on the right and to add a turntable, perhaps with a roundhouse.

To get this much operation into the space, I needed to include a few O-36 curves and design the grade on the inner track of the left-hand loop to nearly 4 percent. The other grades are more forgiving.

The wiring can be nothing more than one transformer with on/off switches for the yard tracks, passing siding, and cutoff tracks. This way you can run two trains, although not at the same time.

Building the layout

If I were building this layout, I would probably choose an eastern theme and use a hill in the center of the left-hand loop to add some interest to the scenery. Of course, western scenery would work just as well.



Either way, you'll have a fun, scenic layout that fits in a space of roughly 100 square feet, leaving nearly 50 square feet of room for a desk and chair – or, better still, an easy chair and a TV, so you can watch those trains go by as you catch the game.

When you're ready to start construction, be sure to review the benchwork tips presented in this special section. **CTT**

ON THE WEB



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FIVE TIPS FOR A MORE SATISFYING SCHEME

To help you understand what makes a good track plan "good" or a decent scheme even better, here are a few layout design factors that I think are significant. – *Kent Johnson*

1 Room to grow

Look for areas on the layout where you can either continue the main line or extend a yard or spur to include new destinations for your trains.

2 More places to play

Adding an operating accessory will enhance the play value of a layout – even when the trains aren't running!

3 Mystery and intrigue

A continuous loop of track keeps trains in constant motion, but hills, tunnels, overpasses, and crossings help break up the monotony.

4 All within easy reach

It's best to keep tracks within arm's reach. On larger layouts, it's tempting to bend this rule, but it's never worth the agony in the long run.

5 Park, pass, and run

Look for plans that have a provision for operating a train around one that's parked – either a yard or siding will do.