

**TALKIN'**

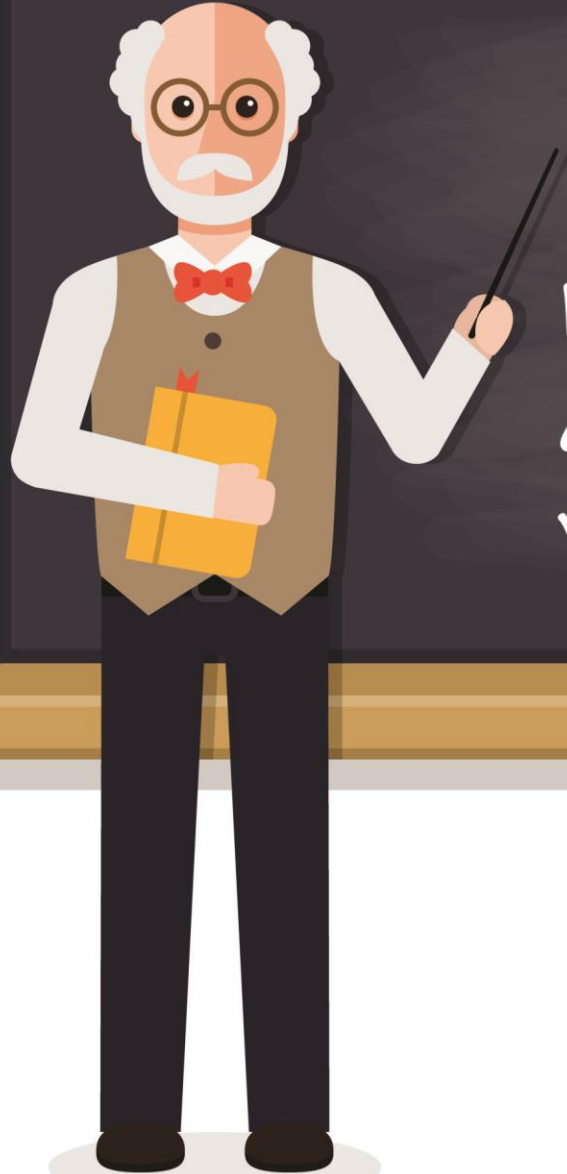
**T-TRAK**



**TALKIN' WHAT?**

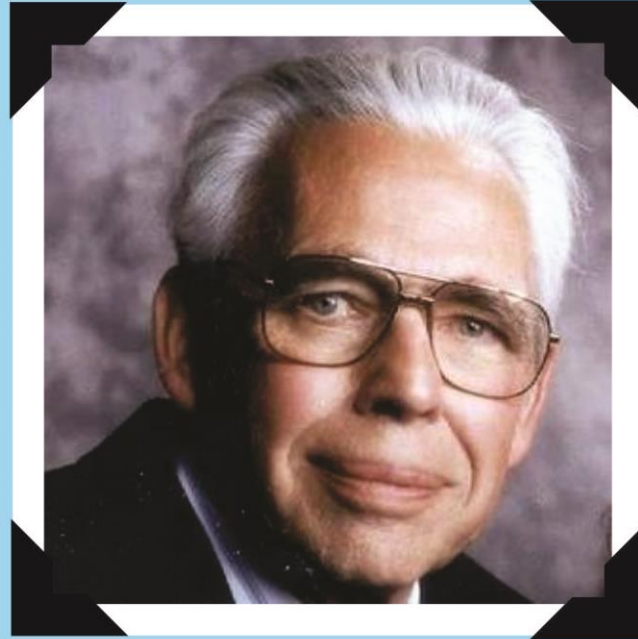
Professor Choo Choo

T-TRAK 101



This small design  
format of N scale  
modules that can fit  
a layout on tables is  
VERY popular!!

As we celebrate 2023 as the 50th year of **NRail** and it's namesake **NTRAK** N scale modular model railroad format, founded by Jim FitzGerald, we must also recognize another development. Early in the 21st century Jim and his wife, Lee Monaco-FitzGerald, traveled to Japan where they were introduced to an N scale concept of trolley model railroading. Lee envisioned this as a possible modular concept and developed what we now know as **T-TRAK**.



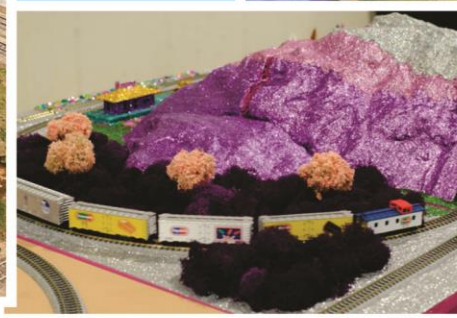
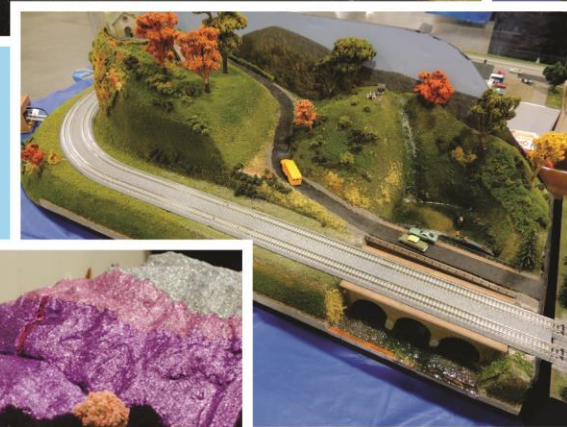
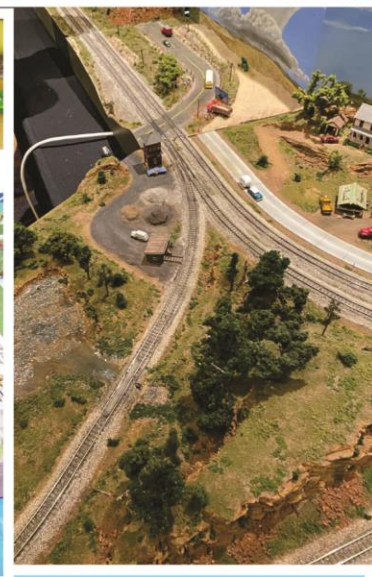
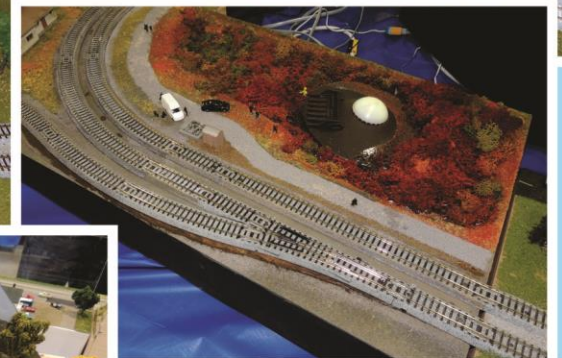
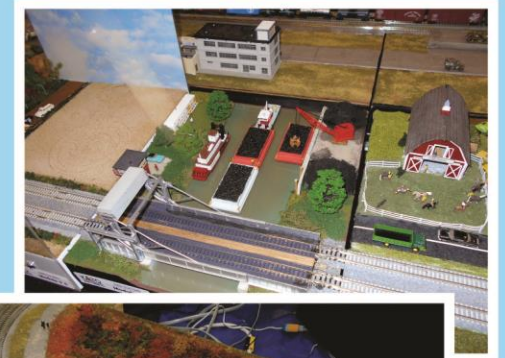
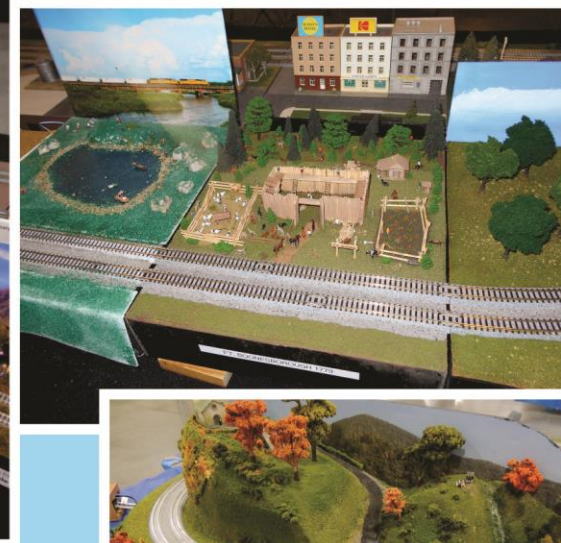
**N-TRAK**

**N-TRAK**

**T-TRAK**  
Trams - Trolleys - Trains - Two Track - Table Top



T-TRAK is a system of N scale (in our case - there are T-TRAK formats in other scales also) sections of a possible N scale model railroad layout built to a standard as modules that due to their common construction can be joined with others to create a layout of any size. T-TRAK modules are small enough to be very easily transported.







Due to their small standard size they can create a loop layout on a table. Your kitchen table, dining room table or a folding "banquet" table can be home to your temporary railroad empire.



Any 30 inch wide table.  
(Beware of 29 inch wide folding tables!)

A small point to point or switching layout could be built on a shelf.



## Osborn Model Kits



T-TRAK module kits are available as well as custom built module bases.

**Subterrain**  
LIGHTWEIGHT LAYOUT SYSTEM™  
**T-TRAK** Kit  
Kit meets T-TRAK specifications.  
Manufactured by WOODLAND SCENICS for KATO





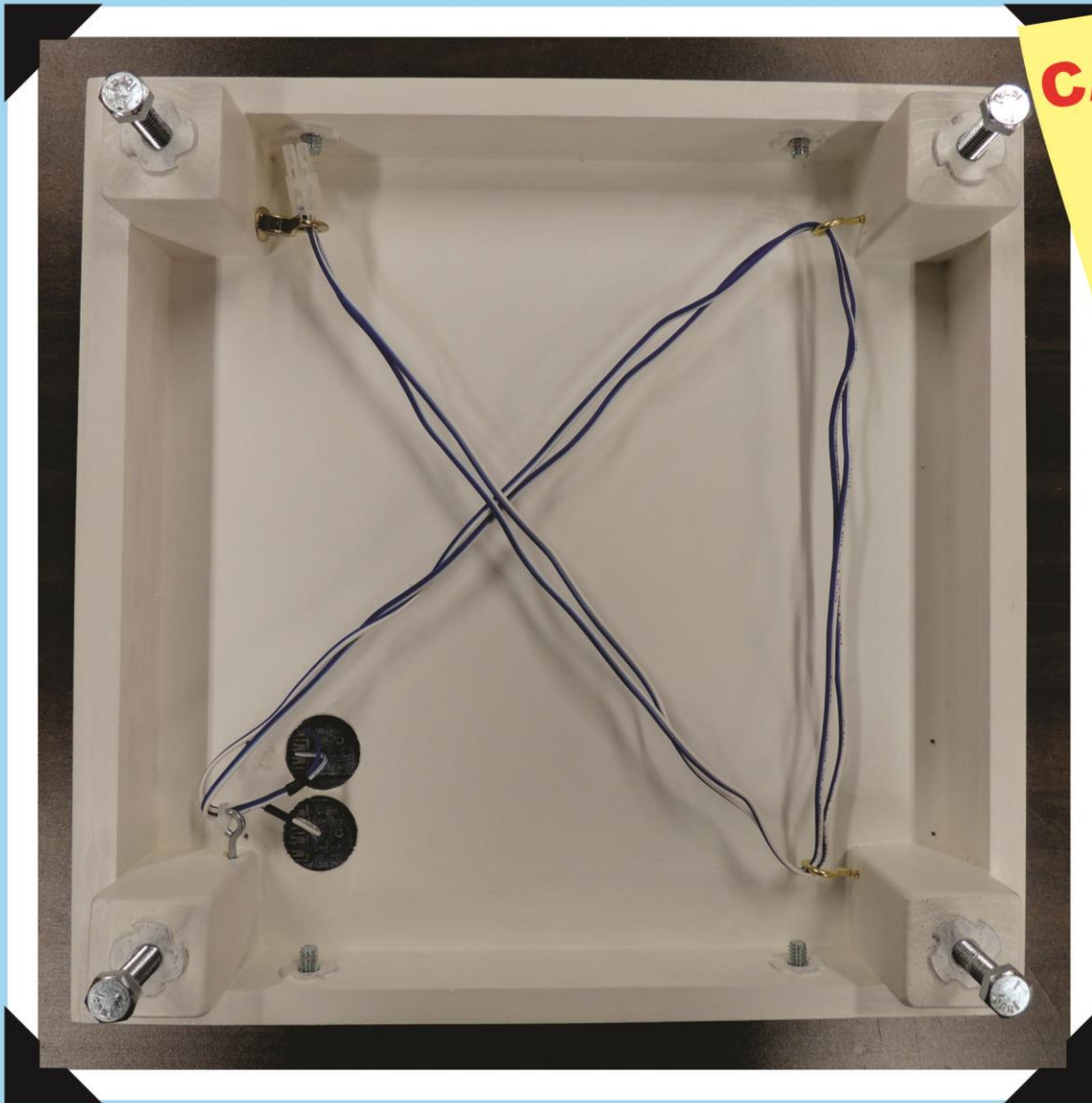


Or, you can build your own from scratch.



Yet another option is these "Gallery" size painting panels. These are handy for those with limited wood working skills or shop availability. They are also excellent for youth groups. Just glue on the legs cut from 2X2 lumber and drill some holes for threaded T-nuts or Nut-certs for ...





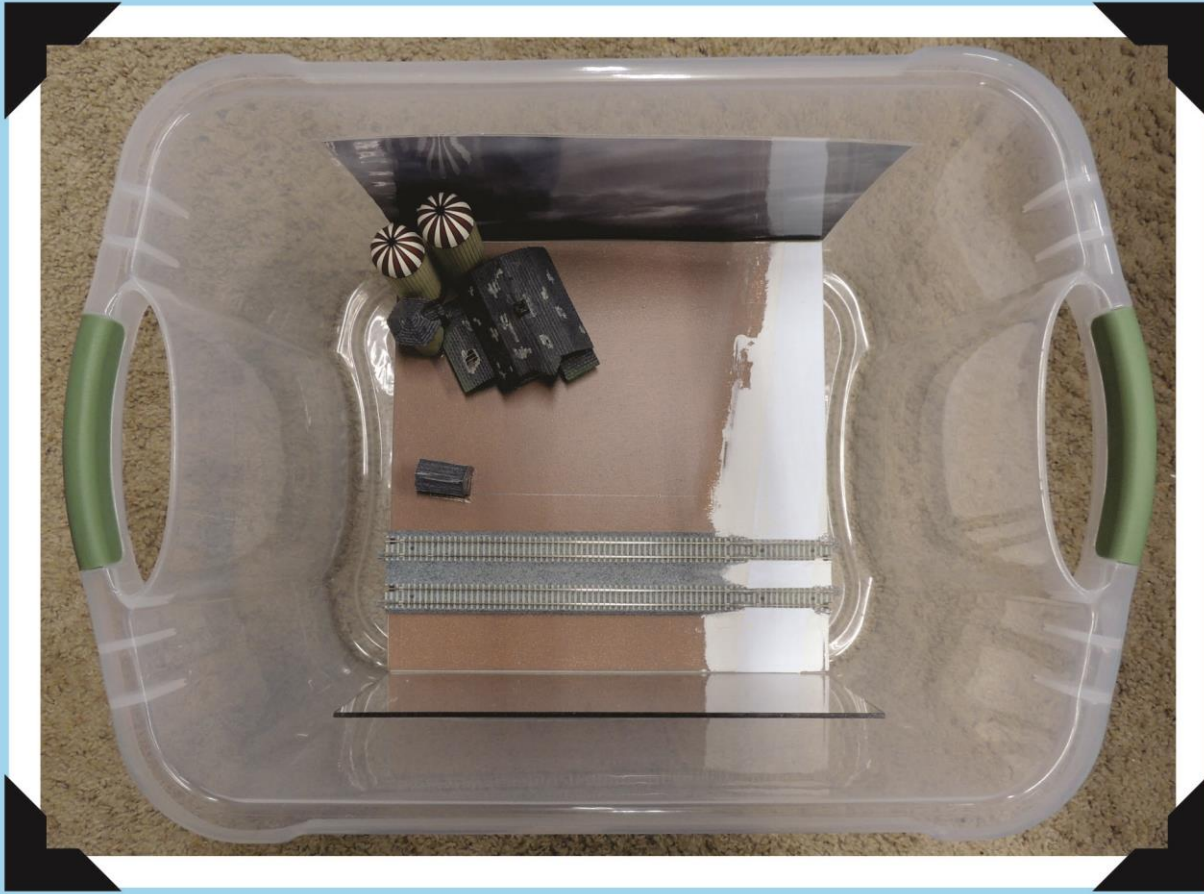
**“Painting panel” T-TRAK  
“single” module**

**CAUTION**  
Module  
under  
construction



... adjustable leg bolts and the attachment of “skyboards” (optional background) and plexiglass/lexan security shields. Not all of these small modules need power supply wiring but one out of three should so make some holes for the track wiring while you’re at it.





A small single module slightly larger than one foot square is easily stored and transported in a readily available plastic bin/tote with the security shield and skyboard in place. With the security shield and skyboard removed a shallower bin could be used dependent on the overall height of the module's scenery. Larger module? Get a larger bin.





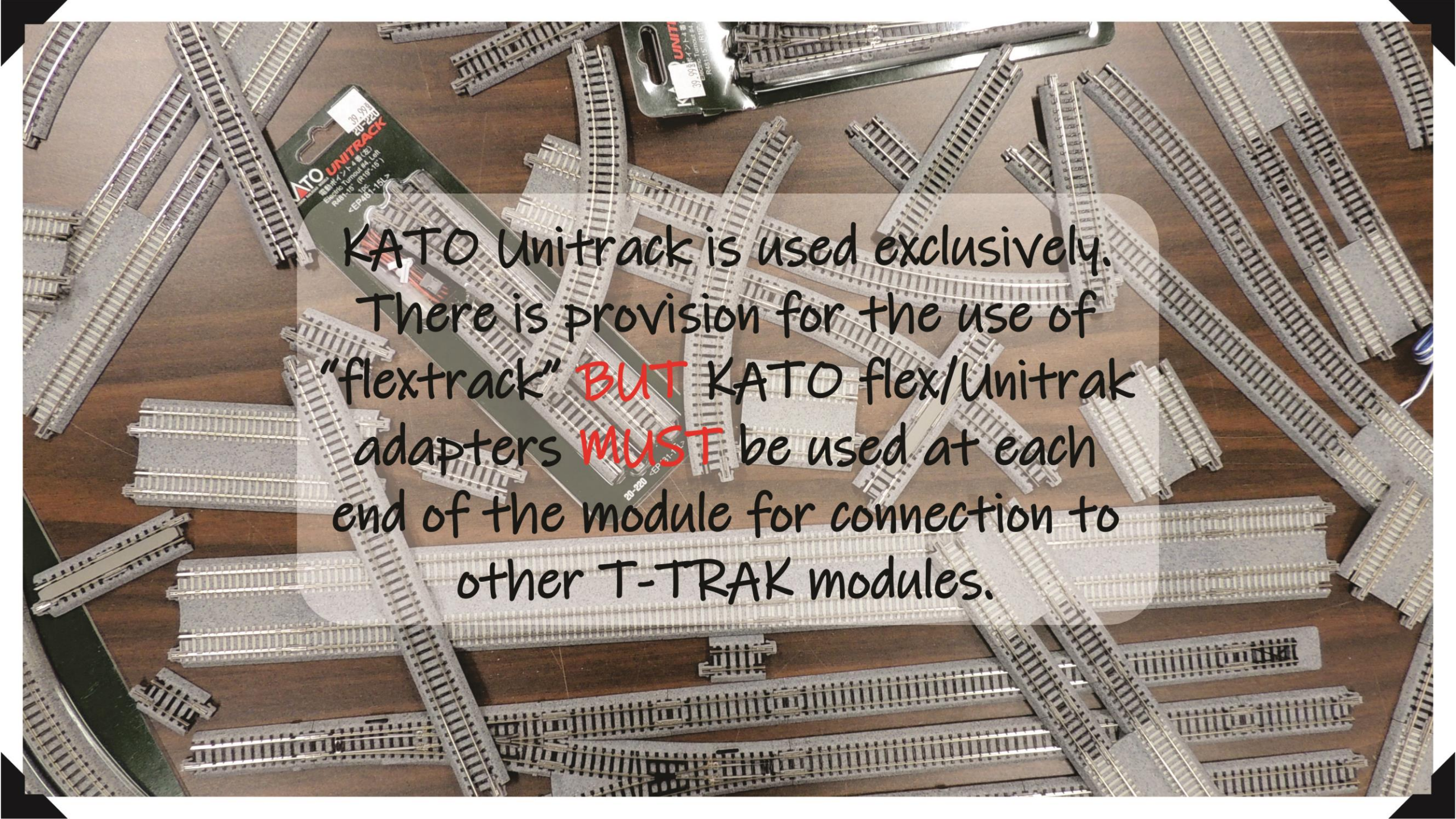
(All packed up for the NMRA National Train Show in Kansas City 2018)



## PORTABILITY!

"Nesting" pairs of T-TRAK modules together with hard board sheets using the skyboard and security panel bolts allows a pair of modules to take up little more than the space req'd by a single module. Plywood sheets on top of the first layer of modules provides a floor for the second storey. This small pickup has about 62 linear feet of modules. Train and eqpt. bins in the back seat with the dog and Helen riding shotgun front.



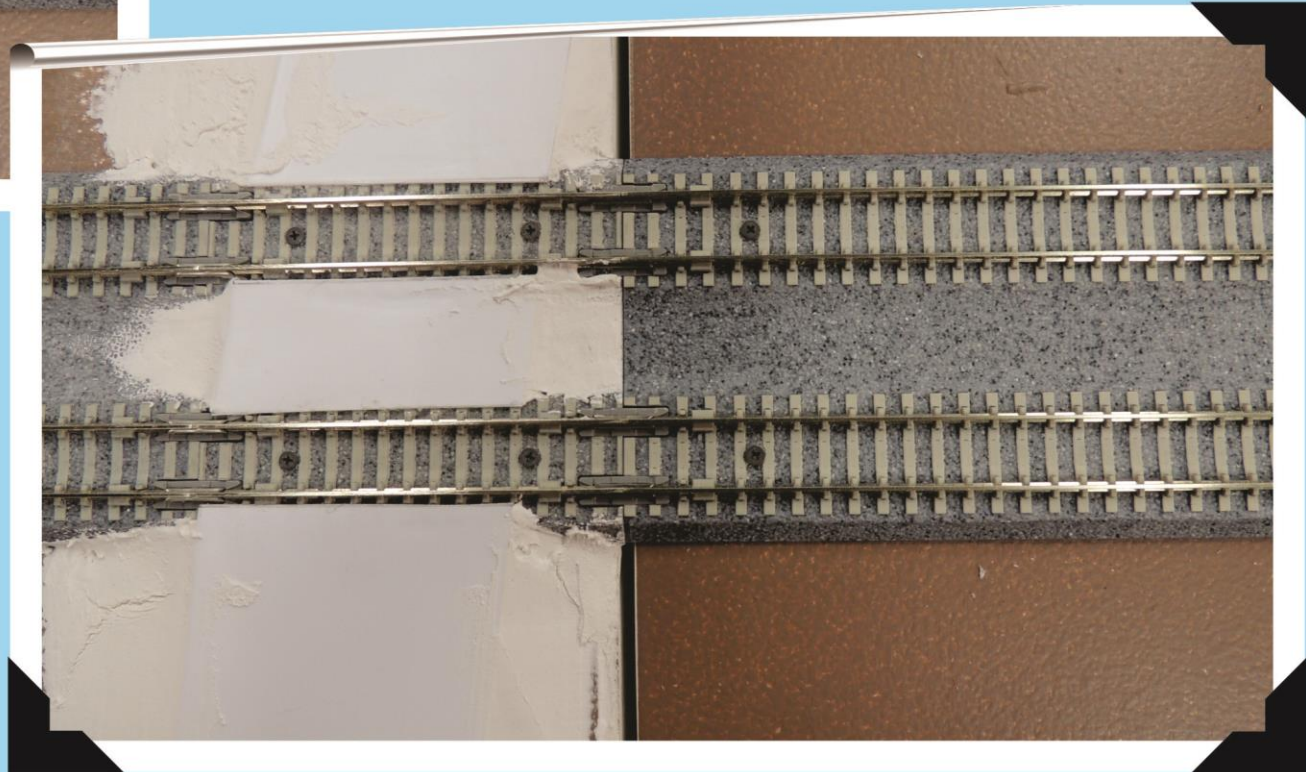
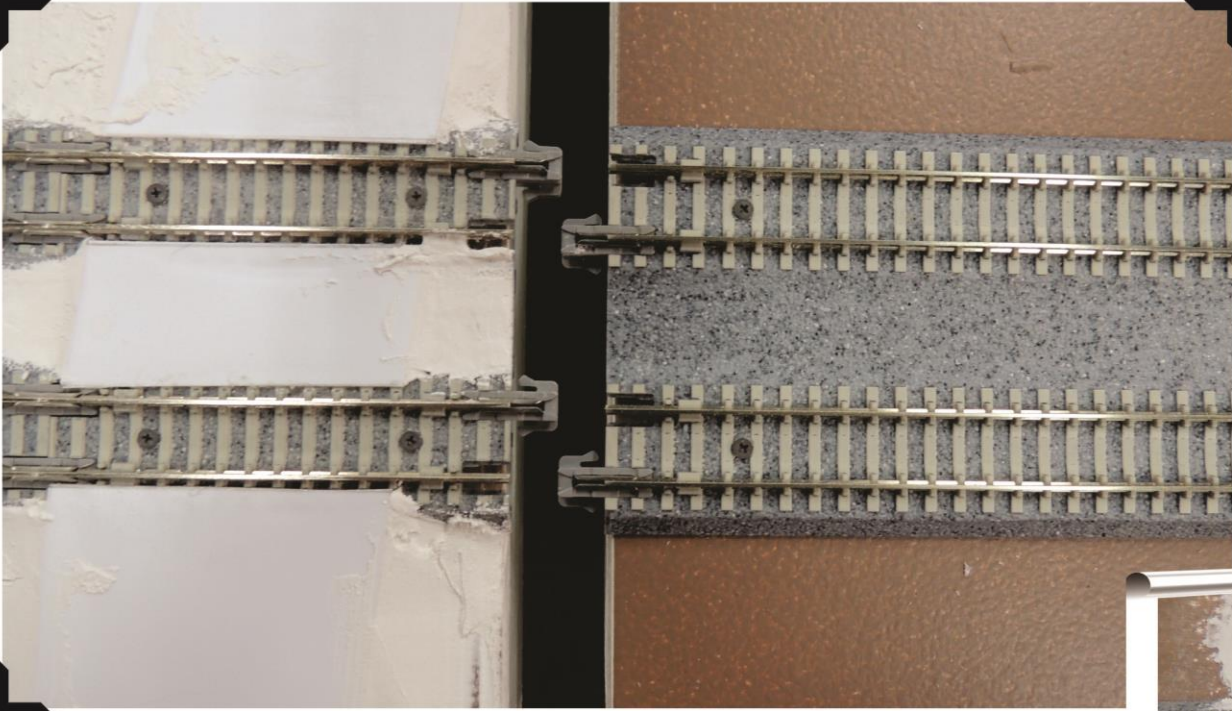


KATO Unitrack is used exclusively.  
There is provision for the use of  
"flextrack" **BUT** KATO flex/Unitrak  
adapters **MUST** be used at each  
end of the module for connection to  
other T-TRAK modules.



With the use of KATO "snap track" pieces module track length is measured in millimeters. A "single" sized module uses  $62 + 248$  mm track sections for a track length of 310 mm (millimeters). Regardless of module size the track overhangs each end by 1 mm.

Each T-TRAK module is like a big piece of "snap track" complete with scenery. When connected together they are held in place by the KATO Unitrack Unijoiners. The 1 mm track overhang at each end of the modules results in a very small 2mm gap between modules. *(In a perfect world but due to such small measurements the gap is usually larger.)*





# NRail T-TRAK Standards

## 3. Module Standards

Item	T-TRAK Standard	Recommended Practice
Single Straight Module	308mm W x 210-330mm D x 70mm H (12-1/8" W x 8 1/4" -13" D x 2 3/4" H)	Depth can be from 5" - 14-3/8" (125mm-365mm) (including skyboard)
Double Straight Module	618mm W x 210-330mm D x 70mm H (24-5/16" W x 8 1/4" -13" D x 2 3/4" H)	Depth can be from 5" - 14-3/8" (125mm-365mm) (including skyboard)
Triple Straight Module	928mm W x 210-330mm D x 70mm H (36 1/2" W x 8 1/4" -13" D x 2 3/4" H)	Depth can be from 5" - 14-3/8" (125mm-365mm) (including skyboard)
Quad Straight Module	1238mm W x 210-330mm D x 70mm H (48 3/4" W x 8 1/4" -13" D x 2 3/4" H)	Depth can be from 5" - 14-3/8" (125mm-365mm) (including skyboard)
<b>Note – straight modules width is a multiple of 310mm less 2mm</b>		
Outside Corner Module	365mm W x 365mm D x 70mm H (14-3/8" x 14-3/8" x 2 3/4" )	
End Cap (double Outside Corner)	732mm W x 365mm D x 70mm H (28-13/16" W x 14-3/8" D x 2 3/4" H")	
Inside Corner Module	559mm W x 559mm D x 70mm H (22" W x 22" D x 2 3/4" H)	The front and back corners can be truncated to form a 6-sided module for ease of transport and storage
Junction Module (see Recommended Practice)	596mm W x 365mm D x 70mm H (23-7/16" W x 14-3/8" D x 2 3/4" H)	The outside track requires use of a Kato 20-050 expansion track or cutting a standard piece of track
Leveling Bolts	1/4"-20 x 2" bolt and 1/4"-20 threaded T- Nuts installed near corners of module.	1/4"-20 x 2 1/4" socket set screws with holes in top of module can be used to allow height adjustment from above with a hex wrench.

Note: On all modules, including non-standard modules, track must extend at least 1mm beyond each end of each module. This allows the UniJoiners to lock onto the next module and hold the layout together.

T-TRAK Standards are available to everyone on the NRail web site.

<https://nrail.org/T-TRAK-Standards>

<https://nrail.org/resources/Documents/T-TRAK%20Standards.pdf>

## 5. Track Standards

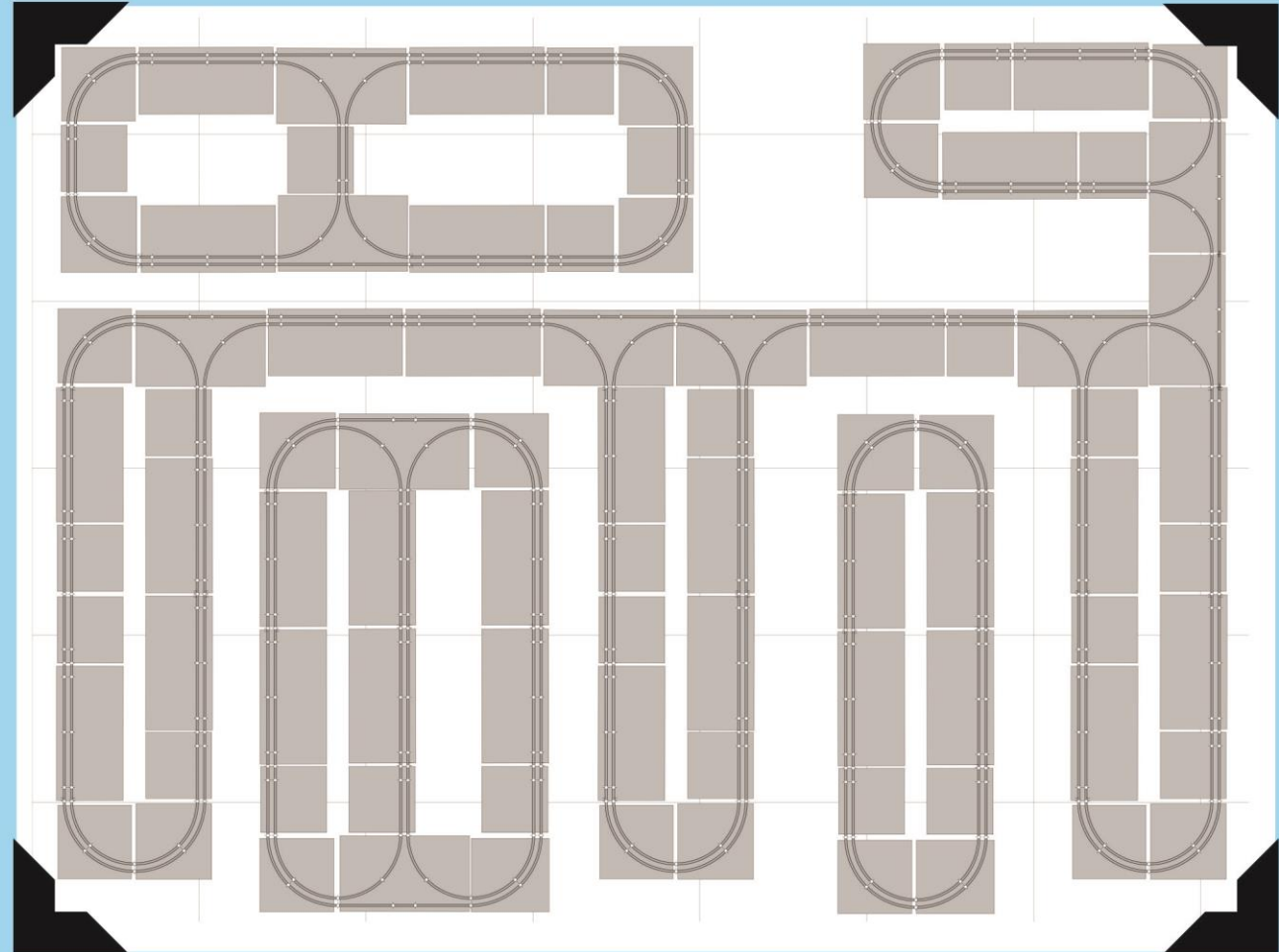
The basic track standard for T-TRAK requires the use of Kato Unitrack, as defined in the table below. This use of Kato Unitrack at the module ends is mandatory for the correct interface with adjacent modules. Within a module or set of always interconnected modules flextrack may be used. Allowable types of flextrack are Atlas Code 80, Peco Code 80 or 55, Micro Engineering Code 55, or hand laid track. The use of Atlas Code 55 is prohibited.

Item	T-TRAK Standard	Track Used	Recommended Practice
Track Spacing	33mm centerline-to-centerline (original spacing was 25mm)	Kato 20-042	Use double track pieces on ends when setting spacing
Track Setback (from front)	38mm / 1 1/2" to front edge of track bed		
Corner Curve Radii	282mm & 315mm	Kato 20-110 Kato 20-120	
Turnout Type	Kato turnouts on mainline tracks	Kato 20-202/203	Use of #6 turnouts on mainline tracks
Road Crossing Track		Kato 20-021	Aids in train deployment and re-railing
Single Straight Module	2 mainline tracks - 310mm	2 - Kato 20- 010 2 - Kato 20- 020	Use of single track
Double Module	2 mainline tracks - 620mm	4 - Kato 20- 000 2 - Kato 20- 020	Use of single track
Triple Module	2 mainline tracks - 930mm	6 - Kato 20-000 2 - Kato 20- 010	Use of single track
Quad Module	2 mainline tracks - 1240mm	10 - Kato 20-000	Use of single track
Outside Corner Module	90-degree curves of 282mm & 315mm	2 - Kato 20-110 2 - Kato 20-120	Use of single track
End Cap (double Outside Corner)	180-degree curves of 282mm & 315mm	4 - Kato 20-110 4 - Kato 20- 120	Super-elevated track (Kato #20-183 & 20-184) can be used
Inside Corner Module	90-degree curves on both tracks	2 - Kato 20-111 6 - Kato 20-121 2 - Kato 20-130	Front & back corner truncated for ease of transport and storage
Junction Module	Outside track is straight and Inside track has two 90-degree curves	2 - Kato 20-000 1 - Kato 20-050 4 - Kato 20-110	Red track requires use of a Kato 20-050 expansion track or cutting a straight track

Note: Unitrack double track equivalents can be used on modules.



Standard straight modules can be any depth from 8 1/2 to 14 inches in any multiples of the "single" size length - doubles, triples or longer if desired. The standard sizes were meant to allow layouts on single table wide rows of tables. Double wide rows of tables allow for even larger modules and more creative layouts.



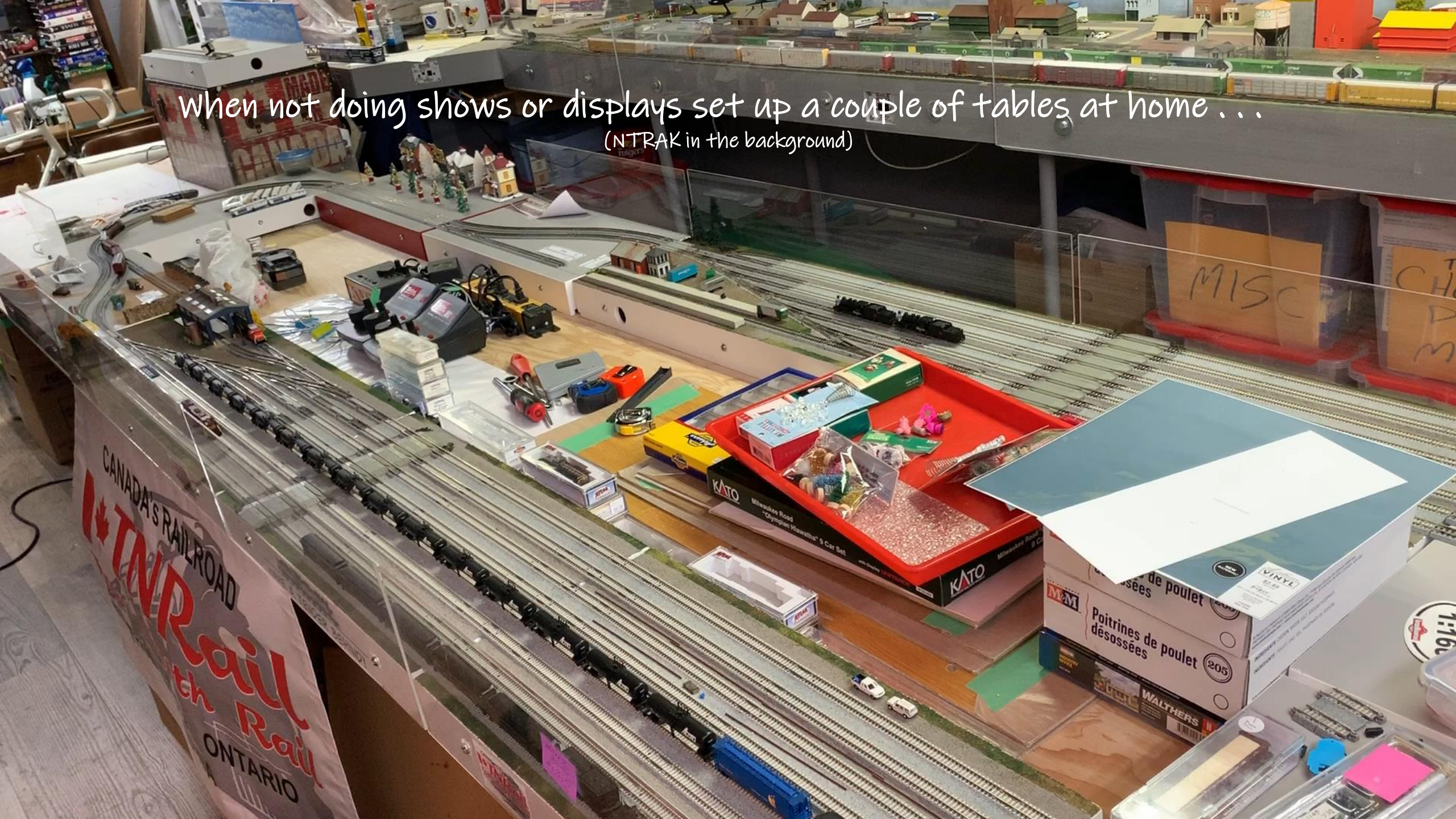




At the NMRA National Train Show of 2018 in Kansas City N-Rail displayed the largest T-TRAK layout to date. 340 modules equating 732 singles for a scale 28.4 miles of red line running provided by over 61 participants displayed the growing popularity of T-TRAK.



When not doing shows or displays set up a couple of tables at home ...  
(NTRAK in the background)





**THANKS**  
**For Watching**

A **ZoomTRAK** presentation by **True North Rail**