

2023
UPDATE

15th Anniversary Edition



Modular Wooden Railways

a Standard for Narrow Wood Railway Tables and Shelves



Der Eisenbahntisch ist eine gängige Lösung zum Aufbau großer Modelleisenbahnanlagen. Leider sind Eisenbahntische oft zu groß um einfach transportiert zu werden. Auch ist es oft schwer die gegenüberliegende Seite eines Tisches zu erreichen. Zwar könnte man kleinere Tische zu einem großen Tisch kombinieren, jedoch müssen alle Schienen am Rand dann zusammenpassen. Da nur wenige Häuser und Wohnungen ausreichend Platz für eine große Eisenbahnanlage bieten, wären schmale Tische eine günstige Alternative.

Modelleisenbahnclubs habe eine Reihe von Lösungen für modulare Tischsysteme entwickelt. Diese Systeme sind dafür geeignet, sehr große Anlagen zu transportieren. Auch können Anlagen so rekonfiguriert werden – sogar eine Kombination mit Tischen anderer Familien ist in einigen Fällen möglich.

Ich möchte hier eine Alternativlösung vorschlagen, welche auf schmalen Tischplatten basiert. Diese Lösung ist besonders gut für kleinere Räume geeignet. Die gesamte Eisenbahnanlage kann von nur einer Tischseite erreicht werden. Dies ist besonders dann günstig, wenn die Tische entlang einer Wand, und nicht im Zentrum des Zimmers aufgebaut werden.



MOSAIC Children's Museum

2023 started early with a small custom railway completed and delivered to MOSAIC Children's Museum the second week of January to support their Spring opening. This layout incorporates 22 turnouts and 7 crossings in a compact footprint of 4'x10' with 55 lineal feet of track. Seven handmade trains provide a collaborative railroading experience without the distraction of commercialization, while water features, trees, landscaping and hilly terrain with a tunnel complement this immersive exhibit.

MOSAIC's layout is small enough to travel easily to regional events – including the North State Model

Train Show in Gridley (CA) and the International Railfair Model Train Show in Roseville (CA). Visit MOSAIC's Facebook page for more details: www.facebook.com/MOSAICcm



FL!P Children's Museum

The last few years pushed many family-centered organizations past a point of recovery. Portland's only children's museum was among many that were shuttered in 2021. But a group of volunteers in Beaverton is now laying a foundation for a new multicultural and inclusive children's

museum in the greater Portland area. A subset of our family's modular wooden railway – last exhibited in Portland at the 2015 National Train Show – was at several events to create awareness, foster community engagement and help shape what may emerge in 2026.

National Train Show

ECM's modular wooden railway returned to the NMRA's National Train Show for a second consecutive year – this time just outside Dallas. The layout was reconfigured daily for children and families who attended. A new mountain module was built and introduced for this event and is now resident at Edwardsville Children's Museum's Nickel Plate Station – just across the river from St. Louis.



Community Play Project

A group in Vancouver is preparing a framework for a children's museum just north of Portland. In addition to partnerships with local organizations and participation in an array of

established events, CPP sponsored an outdoor event at Waterfront Park overlooking the Columbia River and our family's layout was there among other hands-on exhibits.

2023

Modular Railway Project:
MOSAIC Children's Museum
Woodland, CA

30th UNW Train Show:
Monroe, WA

FL!P Children's Museum Popup Event:
FL!P Children's Museum
Portland, OR

Play PDX:
FL!P Children's Museum
Portland, OR

Family Play Day at Waterfront Park:
Columbia Play Project
Vancouver, WA

Western Gateway Farmers Market:
MOSAIC Children's Museum
Penn Valley, CA

Explorium!:
Edwardsville Children's Museum
Denton, TX

National Train Show:
Edwardsville Children's Museum
Grapevine, TX

Willamette Valley MRM Train Show:
FL!P Children's Museum
Rickreall, OR

2024

31st UNW Train Show:
Monroe, WA

33rd Livingston Train Show:
Livingston, MT

42nd Annual Helena Railroad Fair:
Helena, MT

Flourish: ACM InterActivity Conference:
Edwardsville Children's Museum
Madison, WI

MT. Tabor Neighborhood Event:
FL!P Children's Museum
Portland, OR

Victoria Model Railway Show:
Sidney, BC

Kitsap Children's Museum:
Bremerton, WA

Vancouver Train Expo:
Vancouver, BC

Fourth 'Playn':
Columbia Play Project
Vancouver, WA

Johnson Farm Neighborhood Trains!:
Anderson Island, WA

Draft standard formalized
December 22, 2008

Published by wTrak.org

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Additional content online:
www.wTrak.org

Translations provided by Dirk Weiss
and Hanna Ashagre

2023 National Network

Five organizations with modular wooden railways engaged with their communities throughout the United States this year. In some cases, they have partnered with other organizations in a collaborative way for setup and coverage - including local scouts. Here are a few of these regional events:

Franklin County Children's Festival:
Western Maine Play Museum
Farmington, ME

Spring Spokane Train Show:
River City Modelers
Spokane, WA

Maine Fiddlehead Festival:
Western Maine Play Museum
Farmington, ME

Grand Strand Train Show:
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Myrtle Beach, SC

Spring into Trains Show:
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Raleigh, NC

Neuse River Valley 39th Train Show:
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Raleigh, NC

International Railfair Train Show:
MOSAIC Children's Museum
Roseville, CA

Fall Spokane Train Show:
River City Modelers
Spokane, WA

Resources for Wooden Railways wRailway.org

Resourcing & Equipping

Prospective organizations for a Modular Railway Project or wooden railway resource donation should:

- be a 501(c)(3),
- serve children through at least elementary school,
- be capable of minor touch-ups (*glue, sharpie, varnish*), and
- be accessible to the public

Other factors to share might include:

- Links underserved communities (*broadly defined to include those remote from population centers, kids on the spectrum, families with limited resources, cultural diversity or other barriers and challenges*),
- Space available for permanent or periodic hands-on exhibits,
- Geographically distant from an existing modular layout,
- Active in a variety of community events and/or Train Shows,
- Affiliation with local train clubs,
- Regularly conducts Workshops or Maker Events for kids, or
- Holds periodic train-themed evening or weekend events

...got Trains?



Floor Railway Project

A 5' wooden floor train was designed for The Engine Shed in Reading (UK) to provide additional immersive and tactile train experience opportunities both indoors and out. The floor train was on the airplane for The Engine Shed's April gathering but the flight was delayed by more than 19 hours due to equipment issues. When rescheduled, the itinerary left insufficient connection time to deliver the train (*we actually had to run through Heathrow to make our next flight*) and was set aside for a future adventure. Later in that year, The Engine Shed moved into a more permanent space filled wall to wall with hands-on train layouts leaving little room for this oversize floor train.

Adjusting to changing circumstances, a small modular wooden railway is earmarked for construction and delivery to The Engine Shed in 2024. A virtual model of the train with dimensions is shown – along with photos of the project in work and then 'tested' with the help of Blake and Blair (*nephew and niece*).



Reading Corner

Building on recommendations from Joni James (Western Maine Play Museum) and Holli Saperstein (Wilmington Railroad Museum), an expansive list of children's books featuring trains and railway workers was compiled and posted online. Titles are grouped by age-level as a starting point for exploration.

Preschool

Adelaide and the Night Train.....Liz Rosenberg
All Aboard!.....Rebecca Kai Dotlich
And the Train Goes.....William Bee
Alphabet Trains.....Samantha R. Vamos
Cecil Bunions and the Midnight Train.....Betty Paraskevas
Choo Choo.....Petr Horacek

Chuo Chuo (Bilingual)

Clickety Clack.....Robert Spence
Count on the Subway.....Paul DuBoi Jacobs
Country Crossing.....Jim Aylesworth
Crossing.....Philip Booth
Curious George Takes a Train.....H. A. Rey
Down in the Subway.....Miriam Cohen
Down by the Station.....Will Hillenbrand
Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride.....Deborah Bodin Cohen
Freight Train.....Donald Crews

Tren de carga (Bilingual)

Friday's Journey.....Ken Rush
Grandfather's Trolley.....Bruce McMillan
Here Comes the Train.....Charlotte Voake
Hey! Get Off Our Train.....John Burningham
How to Train a Train.....Jason Carter Eaton
I'm Taking a Trip on My Train.....Shirley Neitzel
I Can Make a Train Noise.....Michael Emberley
I Dream of Trains.....Angela Johnson
I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track.....Joshua Prince
Inside Freight Train.....Donald Crews
Iron Horses.....Verla Kay
It's Funny Where Ben's Train Takes Him.....Robert Burleigh
Jingle the Brass.....Patricia Newman
The Last Train.....Gordon Titcomb
The Little Engine That Could.....Watty Piper

La Pequena Locomotora Que Si Pudo (Spanish)

Little Locomotive.....Ib Spang Olsen
Little Red Train Adventures Storybook.....Benedict Blathwayt
The Little Train.....Lois Lenski
Locomotive.....Julian Tuwim
My Little Train.....Satomi Ichikawa
My Subway Ride.....Paul DuBois Jacobs
Next Stop Grand Central.....Maira Kalman
Night Train.....Caroline Stutson
On the Train.....Carron Brown
Orphan Train.....Verla Kay
Prairie Train.....Marsha Wilson Chall
The Prairie Train.....Antoine O Flatharta
Railroad Hank.....Lisa Moser
A Railway ABC.....Jack Townend
The Rain Train.....Elena De Roo
Steam Train, Dream Train.....Sherri Duskey Rinker

Que duermas bien, pequeño tren (Spanish)

Steam, Smoke and Steel: Back in Time with Trains.....Patrick O'Brien
Subway.....Anastasia Suen
Subway.....Christoph Niemann
The Subway Sparrow.....Leyla Torres

Gorrión del metro (Spanish)

Subway Story.....Julia Sarcone-Roach
Ten Terrific Trains.....Fiona Conboy
Terrific Trains.....Tony Mitton
A Train Goes Clickety-Clack.....Jonathan London
Train is on Track.....Peter Bently
Train Man.....Andrea Zimmerman
Train Song.....Diane Siebert
The Train to Glasgow.....Wilma Horsbrugh
Train Trip.....Deanna Caswell
Trains.....Byron Barton
Trains.....Anne Rockwell
Trains Don't Sleep.....Andria Warmflash Rosenbaum
Trains: Steaming! Pulling! Huffing!.....Patricia Hubbell
Trucker and Train.....Hannah Stark
Trainstop.....Barbara Lehman
Tupelo Rides the Rails.....Melissa Sweet
Two Little Trains.....Margaret Wise Brown
Underground Train.....Mary Quattlebaum
Where Do Steam Trains Sleep at Night?.....Brianna Cap
Whoo! Whoo! Goes the Train.....Anne Rockwell
William and the Night Train.....Mij Kelly
The Winter Train.....Susanna Isern

Tren de invierno (Spanish)

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

The Banshee Train.....Odds Bodkin
Bear on the Train.....Julie Lawson
Black and White.....David Macaulay
Book of Trains.....Seymour Simon
City Railways Go Above and Below.....Patrick McBriarty
The Daylight Limited; Great Railway Adventure.....Lin Oliver
Locomotive.....Brian Floca
Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure.....Nadja Spiegelman
Northbound: A Train Ride Out of Segregation.....Michael S. Bandy
The Polar Express.....Chris Van Allsburg

El Expreso Polar (Spanish)

The Secret Subway.....Shana Corey
The Sunday Outing.....Gloria Jean Pinkney
Ten Mile Day: Building Transcontinental Railroad.....Mary Ann Fraser
The Train.....Jodie Callaghan
Train to Somewhere.....Eve Bunting
The Transcontinental Railroad.....Rachel Lynette
The Yellow Train.....Alistair Highet
You Wouldn't Want to Work on the Railroad!.....Ian Graham

3rd Grade to Middle School

Eyewitness: Train.....John Coiley
Full Steam Ahead.....Rhoda Blumberg
The Real Book About Trains.....Davis Cole
Subway: The Story of Tunnels, Tubes and Tracks.....Larry Dane Brimner
Transcendental Train Yard (Bilingual).....Norma E Cantú

Middle School

After the Train.....Gloria Whelan
She's Been Working on the Railroad.....Nancy Smiler Levinso
Stopping Train Britain: A Railway Odyssey... Alexander Frater
Time Between Trains.....Anthony Bukoski
The Train Jumper.....Don Brown

ለትላልቅ አቀማመጥ አንድ መፍትሔ የባቡር ሠንጠረዥ ነው። የሚያሳዝነው አብዛኛው ለመጓጓዣ በጣም ትልቅ እና ለመድረስ በጣም አስቸጋሪ ናቸው። ትንንሽ ጠረጴዛዎችን ለመፍጠር ጥቂት አባላት አንድ ላይ ሊጣበቁ ይችላሉ፣ ነገር ግን በጠረጴዛዎች መካከል አፋጣኝ መንገዶችን ለማመቻቸት አጫጭር ጠርዝ ያስፈልጋል። ጥቂት ክፍሎች እና አፓርተማዎች በክፍሉ መሃል ላይ አንድ ትልቅ የባቡር ጠረጴዛ ማመቻቸት ስለማይችሉ የባቡር ሰንጠረዦች ጠባብ የበለጠ አማራጭ አማራጭ ነው።

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ስለ ጠባብ የጠረጴዛዎች ጠረጴዛዎች ወይም የእንጨት ዱካዎች ማናቸውንም የተጠቀሱትን ማናቸውንም አላማዎች ለማግኘት፣ የሚከተሉትን ደረጃዎች እና መስፈርቶች እንደ አንድ ደረጃ አሰጣጥ አመጣለሁ - ለሁለቱም ተንቀሳቃሽ ጠረጴዛዎች እና የመደርደሪያ የባቡር ሀዲዶች...

Corporate Match

Sharing layouts and railway resources with emerging museums in underserved communities is rewarding for both children and families. These gifts also benefit the museum through sponsorships, membership growth and regional engagement opportunities. Many companies will provide a grant or corporate match for employee or retiree hours volunteered to registered 501c3 charities. Each donation compounds to make a meaningful impact.

In 2021, Boeing provided grants for time donated to MOSAIC Children's Museum, Wilmington Railroad Museum, NMRA and Edwardsville Children's Museum. For 2022, grants for hours volunteered to MOSAIC Children's Museum, Wilmington Railroad Museum and Edwardsville Children's Museum were also made. This continues in 2023. Be sure to log hours and apply for a match when applicable!

Highlights

WRRM's modular railway traveled to Raleigh (NC) last November for the 38th Annual Neuse River Valley Model Train Show. Following that show, the layout returned to the museum and reconfigured with a new module.

A video series showing construction details for the layout is now available at the museum for visitors to watch while their kids and grandchildren engage with the railway.

wTrak returned to UNW's annual model train event for an eleventh consecutive show. UNW was the first model train show to welcome a hands-on modular wooden railway.

Several videos have been added to wTrak's YouTube channel – including visuals detailing the construction of durable fabric trees.
www.youtube.com/@wtrak-modularwoodenrailway7534

Separately, a 40-minute video presented in an NMRAx clinic detailing wooden railways as an entry in model railroading can also be found online.
youtu.be/HrMOUByB0tU?t=518

