

Where do I go next?

You've made the decision that model railroading would make an ideal hobby. Now what? To help you take the next step we've compiled this list of resources. It's by no means all-inclusive but will provide a good starting point. You'll find information on train shows, publications, videos, and Web sites with the appropriate contact information.

Hobby shops

To find a shop in your area, check your Yellow Pages or the hobby shop directories at the back of most model railroad magazines. To locate a shop that offers workshops for beginners, go to www.GreatestHobby.com.

Train shows

Hundreds of local shows are held throughout the year all across the country. Go to www.GreatestHobby.com to link to a free events database. In addition, numerous large shows are held throughout the country. Contact sponsors directly for show times and locations:

Great Train Expo, P.O. Box 725, Oswego, IL 60543, 630-2608-4988, gtexpo.com

National Train Show (an annual show sponsored by the National Model Railroad Association), 4121 Cromwell Rd.,

Chattanooga, TN 37421, nmra.org
World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, P.O. Box 11, Elmhurst, IL 60126, 630-279-5094, www.wghshow.com

Greenberg Train Shows, P.O. Box 34, Elmhurst, IL 60126, 630-279-4087, greenbergs-shows.com

Scale model railroading

Publications

Model Railroader, P. O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, 800-533-6644, ModelRailroader.com

Canadian Railway Modeller, Box 99, Station F, 355 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, MB Canada R2L 2A5, 201-668-0168, cdnrwymod.com

Model Railroad News, P. O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080, 541-955-1096, modelrailroadnews.com

N Scale, 5811 75th Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98270, 360-658-2458, nscalemagazine.com

N Scale Railroading, P. O. Box 77296, Seattle, WA 98177-0296, 206-364-1295, nscalerrailroadn.com

Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette, P.O. Box 77298, Seattle, WA 98177-0296, 800-545-4102, ngslgazette.com

O Scale Trains, P.O. Box 289, Exton, PA 19341-0289, oscalemag.com

Railroad Model Craftsman, P. O. Box 700, Newton, NJ 07860-0700, 973-383-3355, rrmodelcraftsman.com

Ztrack Magazine Ltd., 6142 Northcliff Blvd., Dublin OH 43016, 614-764-1703, ztrack.com

Books

Basic Model Railroading: Getting Started in the Hobby, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, modelrailroaderbooks.com

N Scale Model Railroading: Getting Started in the Hobby, by Marty McGuirk, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, modelrailroaderbooks.com

HO Scale Model Railroading: Getting Started in the Hobby, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, modelrailroaderbooks.com

Videos

Building Your First Model Railroad, order by calling 800-533-6644 or visiting www.GreatestHobby.com

SCALE MODELING TERMS

Benchwork: A sturdy, level frame which is the foundation of a model railroad layout. Wood is the most popular material for benchwork.

Free-lance: Modeling that doesn't closely follow an actual railroad.

Kitbashing: Taking one or more model

railroad kits and changing the construction process or combining parts from different kits to create a unique model.

Motive power: Another word for locomotives, the pieces of rolling stock that do the work of moving trains down the road.

Narrow gauge: Rails spaced closer together than the standard gauge of 4' 8½". Three-foot was the most common narrow gauge in the U. S.

Operation: Running trains on a layout in a way that simulates real railroad activity.

Power pack: Electrical

device used to supply current to a model train and control its speed and direction.

Rolling stock: Any piece of railroad equipment that rides on the rails.

Scratchbuilding: Making a model from raw materials and parts, not using kits.

Sectional track: Prefabricated interlocking track sections that can be easily assembled and disassembled.

Weathering: Making new models look more realistic by simulating age and exposure to the elements.



S Gaugian, 7236
W. Madison St.,
Forest Park, IL 60130,
708-366-1973

Books

Get Started in Toy Trains, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, cttbooks.com

Greenberg's Pocket Price Guides, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, cttbooks.com

Your First O Gauge Layout, by Mike Ashe, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, cttbooks.com

Videos

I Love Toy Trains series, TM Books & Video, Box 279, New Buffalo, MI 49117, 800-892-2822, tmbooks-video.com

Clubs and associations

Lionel Collectors Club of America, Business Office, P. O. Box 479, LaSalle, IL 61301, lionelcollectors.org

Lionel Operating Train Society, 6376 W. Ford Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45247, lots-trains.org

Toy Train Collectors Society, Louis A. Bohn, 109 Howedale Dr., Rochester, NY 14616

Toy Train Operating Society, 25 W. Walnut St., Ste. 308, Pasadena, CA 91103, 626-578-0673, ttos.org

Train Collectors Association, P. O. Box 248, 300 Paradise Lane, Strasburg, PA 17579, 717-687-8623, traincollectors.org

Manufacturer sponsors

Atlas Model Railroad Co. Inc.
378 Florence Ave.
Hillside, NJ 07205
908-687-0880
www.atlasrr.com

Bachmann Trains
1400 East Erie Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19124
215-533-1600
www.bachmanntrains.com

Caboose Industries
1861 Ridge Dr.
Freeport, IL 61032
815-233-1871
www.cabooseind.com

Digitrax Inc.
450 Cemetery St. #206
Norcross, GA 30071
770-441-7992
www.digitrax.com

ON THE WEB

www.GreatestHobby.com
This site has everything you need to get started in model trains: locate hobby shops and clubs in your area, find answers to frequently asked questions, and much more.


trains.com
Provides up-to-the-minute information about all scales and types of trains. You'll find the latest news releases, train shows, new model railroad products, and reader forums. You can also sign up to receive free e-mail newsletters related to the scale(s) you're interested in.

hobbyretailer.com
Your best resource to locating a hobby shop anywhere in North America. Simply type in a city or state and hit "return" to find shops in your area.

Tracks Ahead program on PBS:
www.mptv.org
This half-hour show features collections, layouts, and garden railroads in all scales.

Kalmbach Publishing Co.
21027 Crossroads Circle
P.O. Box 1612
Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
262-796-8776
www.kalmbach.com

Kato USA
100 Remington Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-781-9500
www.katousa.com

Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.
P.O. Box 3039
Milwaukee, WI 53201-3039
414-527-0770
www.walthers.com 

TOY TRAIN TERMS

Collector: Toy train enthusiast who acquires vintage or contemporary models to display or study.	Modern-era: Descriptive term for toy trains manufactured since 1970.	Operator: Toy train enthusiast who acquires vintage or contemporary models to repair, restore, or run on track.	Postwar: Descriptive term for toy trains manufactured between 1945 and 1969.	Prewar: Descriptive term for toy trains made in 1942 or earlier in the 20th century.	Reproduction: Toy train patented after an antique that is long out of production.	Restoration: Toy train returned to its original operating condition and appearance by repair and repainting.
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RESOURCES

Allen Keller Productions, 7410 Lebanon Church Rd., Talbott, TN 37877, 800-859-9271, allenkeller.com
Video tours of great layouts

Green Frog Productions, Ltd., 189 Waterbury Way, Douglasville, GA 30134, 800-227-1336, greenfrog.com
How-to and prototype videos
Model Railroad Scenery & Airbrushing Made Easy, presented by *Model Railroader* magazine, 800-533-6644, modelrailroaderbooks.com

Clubs and associations

National Model Railroad Association, 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 423-892-2846, nmra.org

National Association of S Gaugers, c/o Sam McCoy, 4343 N. Neva, Norridge, IL 60706, nasg.org

Ntrak Inc., PO Box 3618, Parker CO 80134, ntrak.org

Garden railroading

Publications

Garden Railways, P. O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, 800-533-6644, GardenRailways.com

Steam in the Garden, 6629 SR 38, Newark Valley, NY 13811, 607-642-8119, steamup.com

Books

Garden Railroading: Getting Started in the Hobby, Kalmbach Publishing Co.,

800-533-6644, grwybooks.com

How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad, by Jack Verducci, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, grwybooks.com

Videos

Building a Basic Garden Railroad, Garden Trains Association. Available from Kalmbach Publishing Co., 800-533-6644, grwybooks.com

Digital Video Images, Inc.

P. O. Box 2584, Littleton, CO 80161-2584, 303-220-8998, modelrailroadvideos.com
How-to and prototype videos

Movie-Mix Productions, 282 Kerry Dr., Santa Clara CA 95050, 408-248-7846, moviemix.com

Clubs and associations

Club listings can be found on the Garden Trains Association's web site at gardentrains.org.

Toy trains

Publications

Classic Toy Trains, P. O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, 800-533-6644, ClassicToyTrains.com

O Gauge Railroading, 33 Sheridan Rd., Poland, OH 44514, 330-757-3020, ogaugerr.com



GARDEN RAILROADING TERMS

Battery power:

Onboard batteries that provide power to a locomotive that's controlled by radio.

Flextrack:

Longer sections of track that are flexible enough to bend to any desired curvature.

Gauge 1: 45 mm (just over 1¾") between the

rails. Although a garden railroad can be built to run on any gauge of track, gauge 1 is most commonly used.

Groundcovers: Low-growing plants that spread to cover the ground, useful for filling in areas and preventing weeds and erosion.

Large scale: A generic term that includes all trains running on gauge 1 track.

Live steam: Miniature locomotives that run on steam, just like real locomotives. They have fire in their fireboxes and boil water in their boilers.

Railway garden:

Garden planted with dwarf and miniature plants to be in scale with the trains.

Roadbed: The material that supports the track and provides drainage. In garden railways, this is most often ballast (crushed rock and rock dust).

Sectional track:

Commercially made track that comes in predetermined straight lengths and curved sections with a set radius.

Water feature: A pond, river, or waterfall on your railway, often incorporating fish and water plants.