

# the ditchlight

the newsletter of the thameside sub-division, nmra british region

issue #147A supplement

september 2023



## highlights special features:

- ♦ Product News on pages 2-22
- ♦ Train Show Layouts on pages 23-28
- ♦ Layout Tour Layouts on pages 29-33
- ♦ The Real Thing on page 34

## From the Engineer's Seat

As promised here is a supplement covering items that space limitations precluded in the main issue. As I write this I also have to prepare a clinic for Derby, "Postcard from Texas". The content of this and that might well be similar! Let us see.

I have a narrow window to get so much done for Derby as I am taking a holiday with my wife (she did not come to Texas) to get some late sunshine and warmth in the Mediterranean in two weeks time. I have had little time to do any modelling since I got back due to commitments like newsletters and hosting friends from Germany for nine days - they live in Wangen im Allgau in Baden Wurtemberg, Southern Germany. They told me that there is a model railway connection in their home town - the headquarters of Noch. Well that was a surprise. I can see a visit coming next year....

Last time I had a bit of a moan about pricing of our hobby products here in the UK. I just came across another horror this morning. Hatton's tell me that the 25% off sale of previously owned items is coming to a close. They gave a link to HO locos so I followed it. All are tagged "Bargain". There near the end was an SD40-2 in BN colours £46.00. It was an Athearn blue box, with no apparent detail parts included, declared a non-runner and to be "bought as seen". Bargain? You be the judge. Collector's item? I don't think so..... Nothing else caught my eye or my fancy, at those sort of prices.

Bargains could be had at the Seaboard Southern Show two weeks ago. Sophie was there with Anoraks Anonymous where I picked up two locos, both with a view to using them on other projects. The bargain was an Athearn RTR SD40 with decoder, (declared a non-runner with one part of the handrails missing for £25. It even has a decoder but I am not sure whether it is functioning yet. It will provide parts to put life into a Railpower

body, The club stand had many bargains too but some members really do expect to receive a lot for their excess stock. Everyone needs to price their items right in the current marketplace. Yes that is sad but it is true. I had my items priced to sell but there was not the appetite it seems. They will be going to Anoraks Anonymous.

So enjoy the rest of the photos from Grapevine. I am sure I shall still have many left over that did not make the cut. It is fun sharing the memories with you and I will continue to do so as long as I can. In all probability Long Beach next year will be my last as my term on the National Board comes to end in 2025. I do not fancy a trip to Michigan in 2025. There is one coming up possibly in the Pacific North West in 2027 (yet to be officially confirmed) but I shall be 75. Who knows how nimble I will be then! My thoughts will turn to Long Beach next and start thinking about how to get there. California Zephyr Chicago to Sacramento and a visit to the California State Railroad Museum to see the NMRA Gallery Exhibit perhaps....dream on.

See you next time

*Mike Arnold*

26 September 2022

tunnelmotor@tiscali.co.uk

sharing know-how



## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS



ScaleTrains Museum Quality SD45X on show for the first time. The range will feature all seven units, including the three EMD demonstrators absorbed into the SP fleet so they feature in EMD colors and as SP locos. Ten models in all if my maths is right.. ETA June 2024.





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS



ScaleTrains next release of the ever-popular EMD SD40-2s is coming. This will also include the rather unique BN SD40-2B unit #7502. ETA April 2024.





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS



ScaleTrains N scale C44-9CW above in faded and work weary Santa Fe colours and right the upcoming new release of the AC4400CW. Their bigger brothers in HO were released two weeks before the Train Show.





# PRODUCT NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS

september 2023



# SCALE TRAINS

www.ScaleTrains.com

## FALL 2023

**N**  
1:160 SCALE

### COLLECTION

**All-New Model - First Super-Detailed AC4400CW**



### GE AC4400CW

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/nac4400](https://scaletrains.com/nac4400)

SCAN & SHOP





BNSF/Heritage II



Canadian Pacific/Beaver



Canadian Pacific/Beaver/RCMP Musical Ride



CSX/YN2



CSX/YN3.com



Ferrodur



Southern Pacific/Speed Lettering



Union Pacific/ex-Southern Pacific Faded



Union Pacific/Red Sill Stripe



Union Pacific/Yellow Sill Stripe



# GE AC4400CW

For availability, pricing, features, eras, road numbers, and more, type the link into your browser or scan the QR code.



### UP GTEL 8500 HP "Big Blow" Turbine

6 UNIQUE ROAD NUMBERS

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/nbigblow](https://scaletrains.com/nbigblow)

SCAN & SHOP







### UP WATER TENDERS

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/ntender](https://scaletrains.com/ntender)

SCAN & SHOP





Steam Excursion Pre-2006 Water Tender Set



Steam Excursion Post-2006 Water Tender Set, Joe Jordan & Jim Adams



Black Steam Excursion Water Tender



### MULTI-MAX™ AUTORACK

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/nmultimax](https://scaletrains.com/nmultimax)

SCAN & SHOP





BNSF/Orange TTGX



BNSF/Yellow CTTX



Canadian National/Red Logo TTGX



Canadian National/White Logo CTTX



Canadian Pacific/Beaver Logo TTGX



CSX/Boxcar Logo CTTX



CSX/Boxcar Logo TTGX



Kansas City Southern/White TTGX



Kansas City Southern/Yellow CTTX



Norfolk Southern/Horsehead CTTX



Norfolk Southern/Horsehead TTGX



TTX/White TTGX



Utah Central Railway/White UCRTY



Union Pacific/Building America TTGX



### THRALL-TRINITY 42' COIL STEEL CAR

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/n42Coil](https://scaletrains.com/n42Coil)

SCAN & SHOP





CSX



Canadian Pacific



CHT/Union Pacific Shield



Conrail/CR/Coil Shield 2



CSX/Boxcar Logo



Indiana Harbor Belt



Norfolk Southern/NS/Protect III



# PRODUCT NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS

september 2023

### EMD SD40-2

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/nsd402](https://scaletrains.com/nsd402)

SCAN & SHOP

Burlington Northern

Chessie System/B&O

SD40-3, CSXYN3

Norfolk Southern/Admiral Cab

Southern/High Hood/Dulux Lettering

Southern/High Hood/Gold Lettering

Union Pacific/Fast Forty

### GE DASH 9

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/ndash9](https://scaletrains.com/ndash9)

SCAN & SHOP

BNSF/ex-Santa Fe Warbonnet Patch

C40-9 "Top Hat"  
Norfolk Southern/Horsehead

Union Pacific/ex-Southern Pacific  
Speed Lettering Patch

Santa Fe/Warbonnet

Union Pacific

For availability, pricing, features, eras, road numbers, and more, type the link into your browser or scan the QR code.

### THRALL 48' 2-HOOD COIL STEEL CAR

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/n48Coil](https://scaletrains.com/n48Coil)

SCAN & SHOP

BNSF/Mismatched Hoods/Green

BNSF/Mismatched Hoods

BNSF/Wedge

CTRN

CTRN/Distressed

Illinois Central

Norfolk & Western/NS Gray Hoods

Norfolk & Western/NS Black Hoods

Norfolk & Western/NS/Mismatched Gray Hoods

Santa Fe

Union Pacific

Union Pacific/Mismatched Hoods

### PULLMAN-STANDARD 4427 COVERED HOPPER

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/ner4427](https://scaletrains.com/ner4427)

SCAN & SHOP

Far-Mar-Co/1972 Repaint

Milwaukee Road/1965 As Delivered

Northern Pacific/1965 As Delivered/  
Billboard

Rock Island/1965 As Delivered/  
Billboard

TLDX/Cargill/1964 As Delivered

TLDX/Gold Kist/1970 Repaint

TLDX/Peavey/1964 As Delivered

TLDX/Producers/1966 As Delivered

TLDX/West Central/1964 As  
Delivered

### All-New Model PULLMAN-STANDARD 5820 COVERED HOPPER

SHOP NOW AT  
[scaletrains.com/n5820](https://scaletrains.com/n5820)

SCAN & SHOP

Exxon - Mobil, XOMX

Pullman Transport Leasing/ Carlton  
- PTLX

Pullman Transport Leasing/ Lauhoff  
- PTLX

Pullman Transport Leasing/  
Norchem - PTLX

Pullman Leasing - Novamont - PLCX

Pullman Transport Leasing - North  
Petro PTLX

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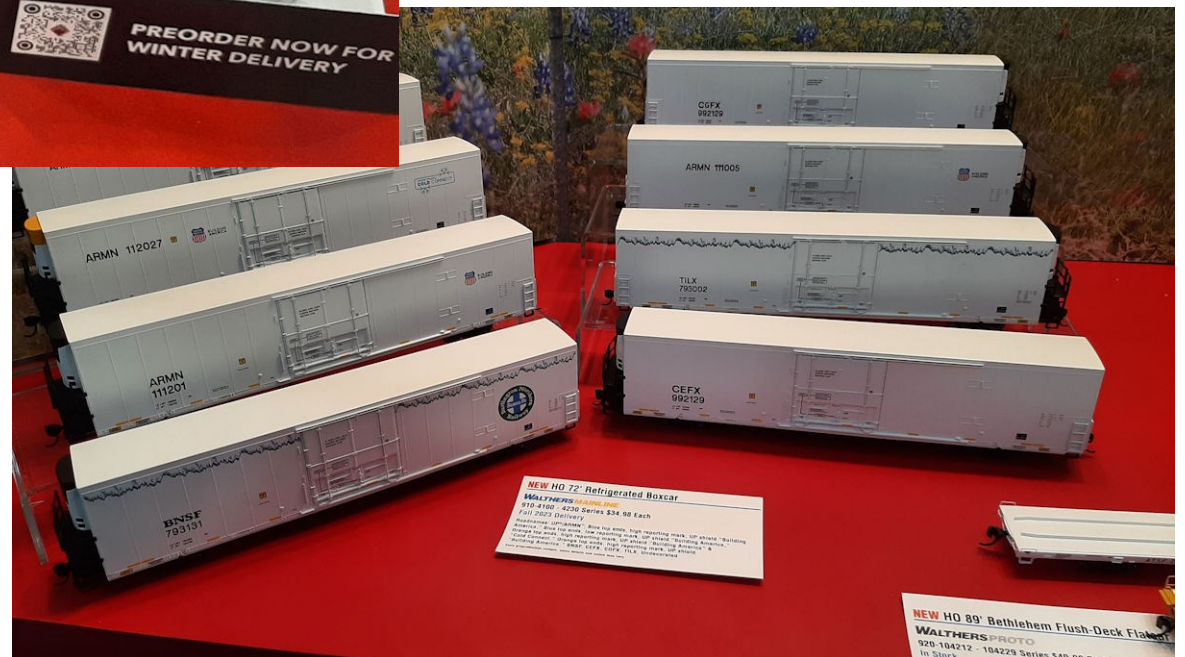
## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### THE TRAIN SHOW - NEW HO PRODUCTS : SCALETRAINS v WALTHERS



Top: ScaleTrains announced the BNSF "Frostline" Reefers a few months ago (using Exactrail molds?). It was a surprise to see Walther's announce their entry into the reefer marketplace with a very similar offering. Nothing of note from Atlas who own the former BLMA line of reefers.....





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : WALTHERS



Top left: Pennsy Interlocking Tower; top right Pennsy passenger depot and finally below and vintage gas station.



## PRODUCT NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : WALTHERS

september 2023



Big loads are in - transformer load for depressed center flat cars following the lead of Class One Model Works; open 89ft autoracks .





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : WALTHERS



Themed train for this year is the UP Heritage Fleet;  
new Amtrak and Amtrak California Superliner cars





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS: INTERMOUNTAIN



Intermountain are now producing separate parts packages for the various PTC arrays on the roofs of modern diesels. Nothing new otherwise in HO. The SD40T-2 has long disappeared from their production plans, last seen in Kansas City in 2018 as a pre-production sample.



## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : BACHMANN



Top: BL2 coming soon and Siemens passenger car behind (more details on their website). Right: More Siemens Chargers coming - beautiful model but so expensive at over \$400 with sound.





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : PIKO ML4000

**PIKO**

**Krauss-Maffei ML4000 Diesel-Hydraulics**

You've never seen such a detailed HO model!

- 1P-25 wheels, all powered
- PIKO Inverto, coupler, knuckle - compatible
- Incredible detail, outside and inside
- Over 100 separately applied metal details
- Road number & time period-specific details
- Over 30 sound & light functions w/ PIKO sound decoder-equipped models
- Non-sound, sound & 3-rail sound versions

**HO & N NEW ITEMS 2023**

**SP KM ML4000 Diesel Hydraulics**

Model	Features
9000 As-Delivered	Non-sound, DCC-Ready
97440	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder
97443	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder, 3-Rail
9001 As-Delivered	Non-sound, DCC-Ready
97444	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder
97445	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder, 3-Rail

**HO & N NEW ITEMS 2023**

**SP KM ML4000 Diesel Hydraulics**

Model	Features
9000 As-Delivered	Non-sound, DCC-Ready
97440	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder
97443	DCC w/ PIKO Sound Decoder, 3-Rail

**www.piko-america.com**



## PRODUCT NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : ATHEARN

september 2023



Above: Delivery delayed on the new AC4400CWs despite what the Athearn Rep said - March 2024 at earliest. It is already 12 months or more late at that date. I have had the UP patch job on order since September last year! Right: SD45-2s in HATX lease colors and ATSF pin stripe now available.





## PRODUCT NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : ATHEARN

september 2023



Top: New freight cars - Bethlehem Bathtub Gondola plus fitted with increased height raves; ICC CA-11 and CA-12 cabooses. Right: a starter level loco in the form of the Republic RX500AC





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : CLASS ONE MODEL



Above: Newky announced thrall 86ft auto-parts car in four and eight door versions. Orders being taken at \$59.99.





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : RAPIDO



Above: Already announced GP9s and slug slaves and Dash 8-40CMs. Right: the newly announced MKT GP40 mother and slug slave. Will they do the SP versions?????





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : RAPIDO



Top: F40PHM-2 ("Winnebago") and F59PH

Right: Take your pick of F40PHM-2s....





## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - HO PRODUCTS : RAPIDO



Left: The upcoming GP38

Below: Pick a C30-7, any C30-7.....  
pre-production samples of all variants on display.

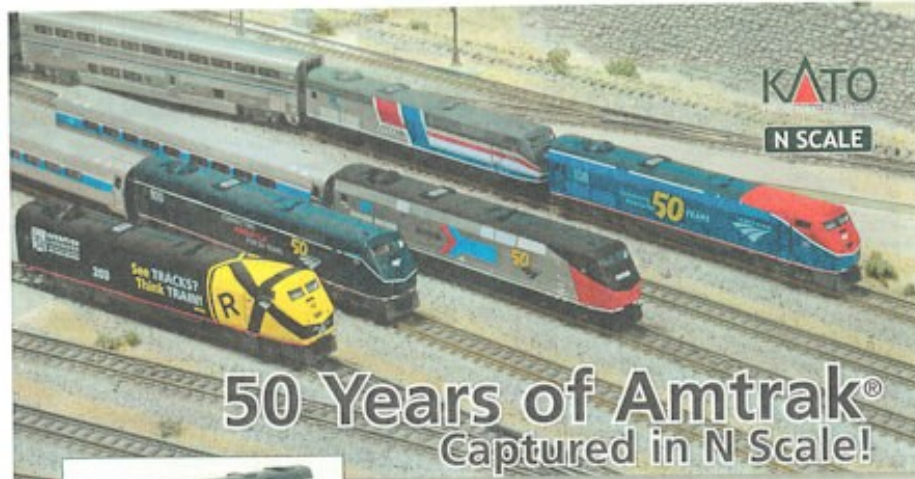




# PRODUCT NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS : KATO

september 2023



### 50 Years of Amtrak® Captured in N Scale!

For Five Decades America's Railroad, Amtrak®, has been fulfilling America's passenger service needs with its fleet of especially built engines and cars. Celebrate this history with both Amtrak and Kato USA with a full release lineup of 50th Anniversary locomotives (painstakingly designed to match the real ones custom painted by Amtrak in early 2022) in N scale! Along with Amtrak's 50th Anniversary paint schemes, you can also celebrate **Operation Lifesaver®** who also celebrated their 50th Anniversary - with the special #203 locomotive and its distinctive safety yellow and black design! These locomotives are available now in Analog/DC, Digital/DCC, and DCC with LokSound while supplies last!

#### LOCOMOTIVES AND AVAILABLE ROLLING STOCK

175-6035	N GE P42 Amtrak "Midnight Blue" 50th Anniversary #100	\$135
175-6035-DCC	N GE P42 Amtrak "Midnight Blue" 50th Anniversary #100 w/ DCC	\$275
175-6036	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase I 50th Anniversary #161	\$135
175-6036-DCC	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase I 50th Anniversary #161 w/ DCC	\$275
175-6037	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase VI 50th Anniversary #108	\$135
175-6037-DCC	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase VI 50th Anniversary #108 w/ DCC	\$275
175-6038	N GE P42 Amtrak "Dash 8" Phase II 50th Anniversary #160	\$135
175-6038-DCC	N GE P42 Amtrak "Dash 8" Phase II 50th Anniversary #160 w/ DCC	\$275
175-6039	N GE P42 Amtrak Operation Lifesaver #203	\$140
175-6039-DCC	N GE P42 Amtrak Operation Lifesaver #203 w/ DCC	\$220
106-6286	N Amfleet & Viewliner Intercity Express Phase VI 3-Car Set	\$105

Includes: Knifed 8 Coach, Amtrak 8 Car, Viewliner 1 Sleeper

#### NEW ITEMS ARRIVING EARLY 2023

175-6035-LS	N GE P42 Amtrak "Midnight Blue" 50th Anniversary #100 w/ ESU LokSound	\$335
175-6036-LS	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase I 50th Anniversary #161 w/ ESU LokSound	\$335
175-6037-LS	N GE P42 Amtrak Phase VI 50th Anniversary #108 w/ ESU LokSound	\$335
175-6038-LS	N GE P42 Amtrak "Dash 8" Phase II 50th Anniversary #160 w/ ESU LokSound	\$335
175-6039-LS	N GE P42 Amtrak Operation Lifesaver #203 w/ ESU LokSound	\$340
10-1789	N Amtrak Superliner Phase VI 6-Unit Bookcase Set	\$205
	<small>Includes: Viewliner 1 Sleeper, Superliner 1 Transition Sleeper, Superliner 1 Sleeper, Superliner 1 Dining, Superliner 1 Lounge, Superliner 1 Coach</small>	
155-0980	N Amtrak Superliner 1 Coach Phase VI #34006	\$30
155-0981	N Amtrak Superliner 1 Coach Phase VI #34008	\$30

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KATO U.S.A., Inc. 100 Remington Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 [www.katousa.com](http://www.katousa.com)

## Classic Named Trains

**20TH CENTURY LIMITED**

The New York Central 20th "Century Limited" from Kato USA is the premier Eastern Named Train available in N scale. The model depicts the train as it appeared in 1948 - one of its most iconic looks with then all-new cars pulled by sleek new E7 locomotives.

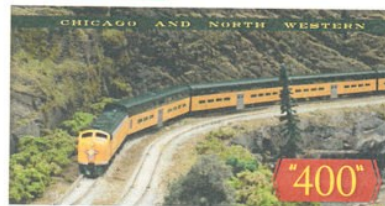
The Kato N Scale New York Central "20th Century Limited" is a must-have for any fans of classic passenger equipment or East coast trains, and is available in a 2 piece locomotive set, a 9-car set, and a 4-car add-on set for any size of layout!

Item #	Description	MSRP
#106-100	N New York Central 20th Century Limited 9-Car Set	\$315
#106-7130	N New York Central 20th Century Limited 4-Car Add-On Set	\$140
#106-0440	N EMD E7A NYC 2-Locomotive Set #4008 & #4022	\$230

**THE MILWAUKEE ROAD Olympian Hiawatha**

The Milwaukee Road "Olympian Hiawatha" from Kato USA represents this Chicago to Pacific Northwest train as it operated after 1952, with the addition of the iconic Full length Super Dome cars and tail end Observation car. This quintessential N Scale named train can be pulled by a set of three FP7+F7 engines, with two different sets of numbers available. This Hiawatha set is a gorgeous train that is a perfect addition to any modeler's collection!

Item #	Description	MSRP
#106-082	N Milwaukee Road Olympian Hiawatha 9-Car Set	\$280
#106-0430	N EMD FP7A+F7B MWR 2-Locomotive Set #95A & #95B	\$190
#106-0431	N EMD FP7A+F7B MWR 2-Locomotive Set #90A & #90B	\$210
#176-2301	N EMD FP7A Milwaukee Road Locomotive #95C	\$110
#176-2302	N EMD FP7A Milwaukee Road Locomotive #90C	\$120



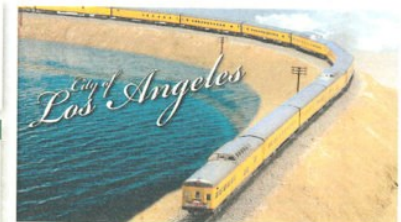
The Chicago & North Western "400" advertised "400 miles in 400 minutes" - a day trip in luxury and speed between Chicago and the twin cities of Minneapolis & Saint Paul. The Kato "400" set is designed to capture the essence of that train in a space friendly 6 piece set with a single E8A locomotives and 5 Pullman Bi-Level cars of various types.

Packaged in an elegant and beautiful Bookcase style box, the C&NW "400" is perfect for the modeler who likes to bring their trains to the local club or operates on a limited amount of space in their main line!

Item #	Description	MSRP
#106-104	N EMD E8 and Pullman Bi-Level "400" 6-Unit Set	\$260

The "City of Los Angeles" - one of the biggest names in Union Pacific streamliners - available from Kato USA in N scale as an 11-car set that is a brand new release for 2022 with all-new car names. Decked out with 3 dome cars as it appeared in 1954, the City of Los Angeles is one of the personifications of the golden age of railroading, and is a dream come true for any fans of the Union Pacific or of classic 1940's-50's era named trains!

Item #	Description	MSRP
#106-088	N Union Pacific City of Los Angeles 11-Car Set	\$290
#176-5323	N EMD E9A Union Pacific #947	\$110
#176-5324	N EMD E9A Union Pacific #949	\$110
#176-5356	N EMD E8B Union Pacific #947B	\$100
#176-5357	N EMD E8B Union Pacific #949B	\$100



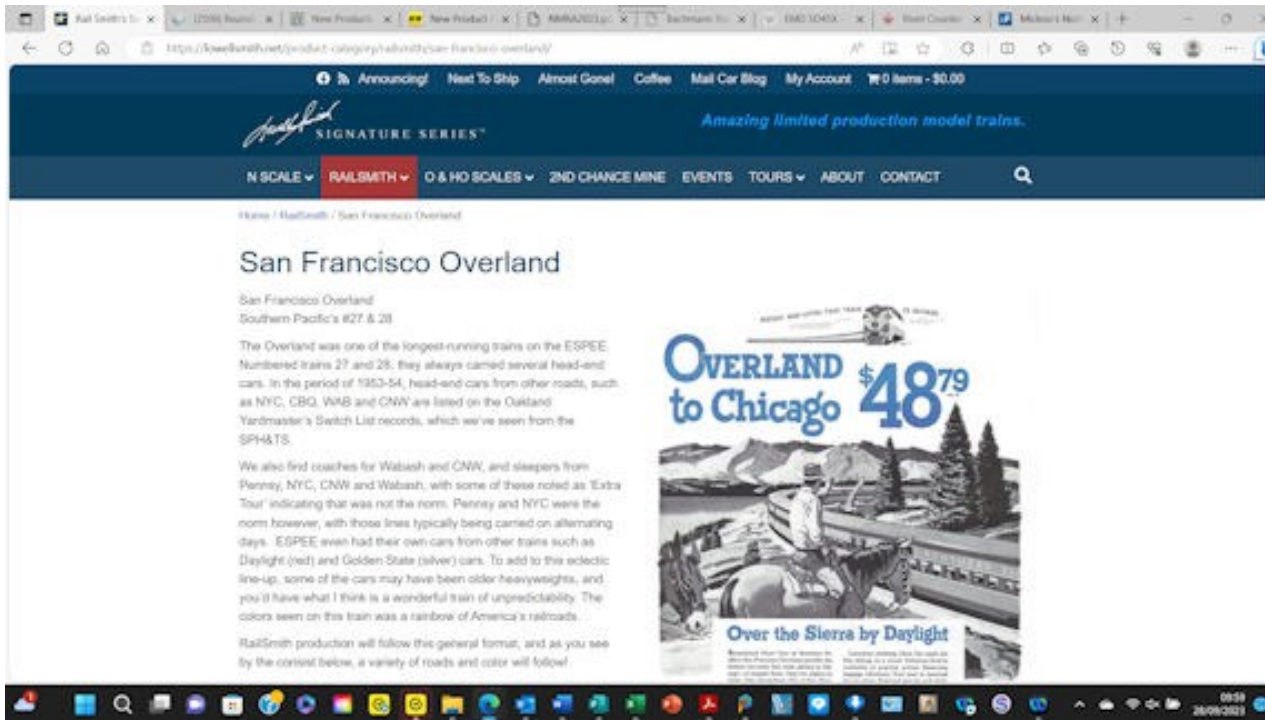
Kato U.S.A., Inc. 100 Remington Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 847-781-9500 [www.katousa.com](http://www.katousa.com)



## PRODUCT NEWS

september 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS : RAILSMITH



N scale so a new name to me. Their display was impressive - I have a load more photos of their products so if you want to see me more just e-mail me. Here is one page of their impressive website. <https://lowellsmith.net>





PRODUCT NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE TRAIN SHOW - N PRODUCTS: INTERMOUNTAIN

september 2023

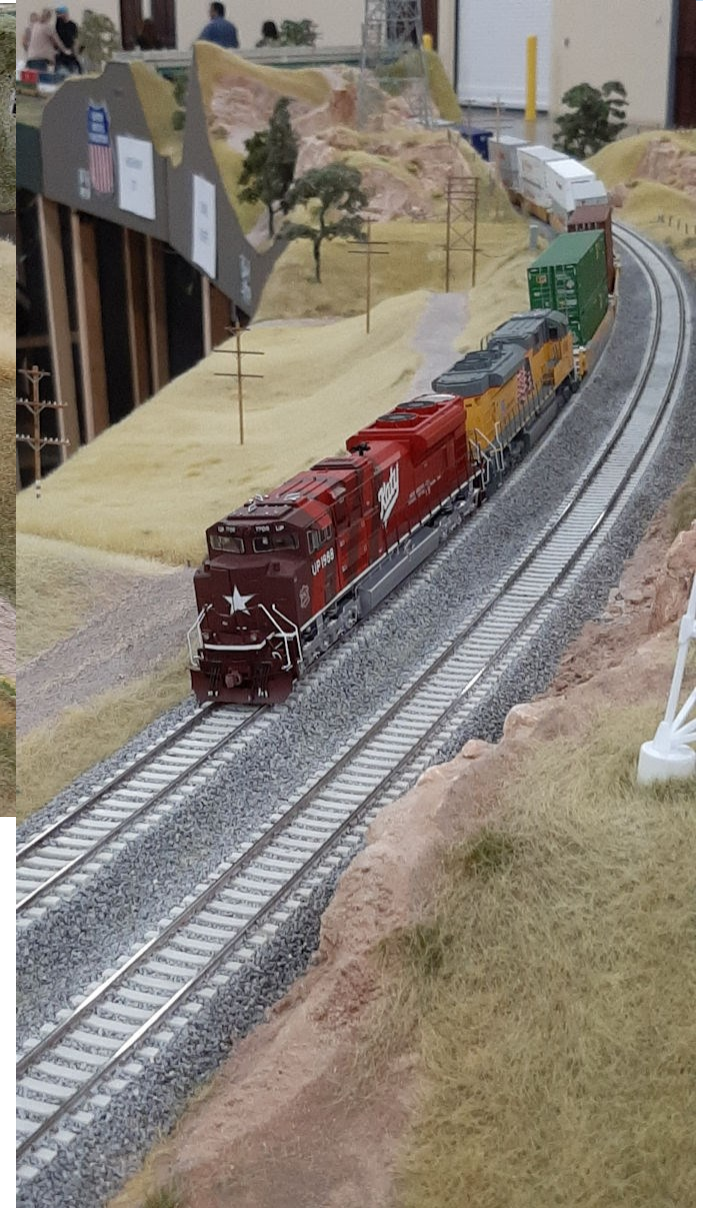




## TRAIN SHOW

### LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - HO FREEMO

september 2023



Freemo had 3,600 sq feet to fill but it was quite disappointing, hardly filled it at all. Yard out to a return loop and back again. Friday and Saturday nothing running but Sunday this intermodal train appeared and then ground to a halt. But exquisite modelling on this part of the set up.



## TRAIN SHOW

### LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - HO MODULAR CLUB LAYOUT

september 2023



The Gulf Western Modular Group put on a excellent show with their layout featuring many dioramas and long vistas. You could swarm your hands on the lights on the refinery - a cracking scene.





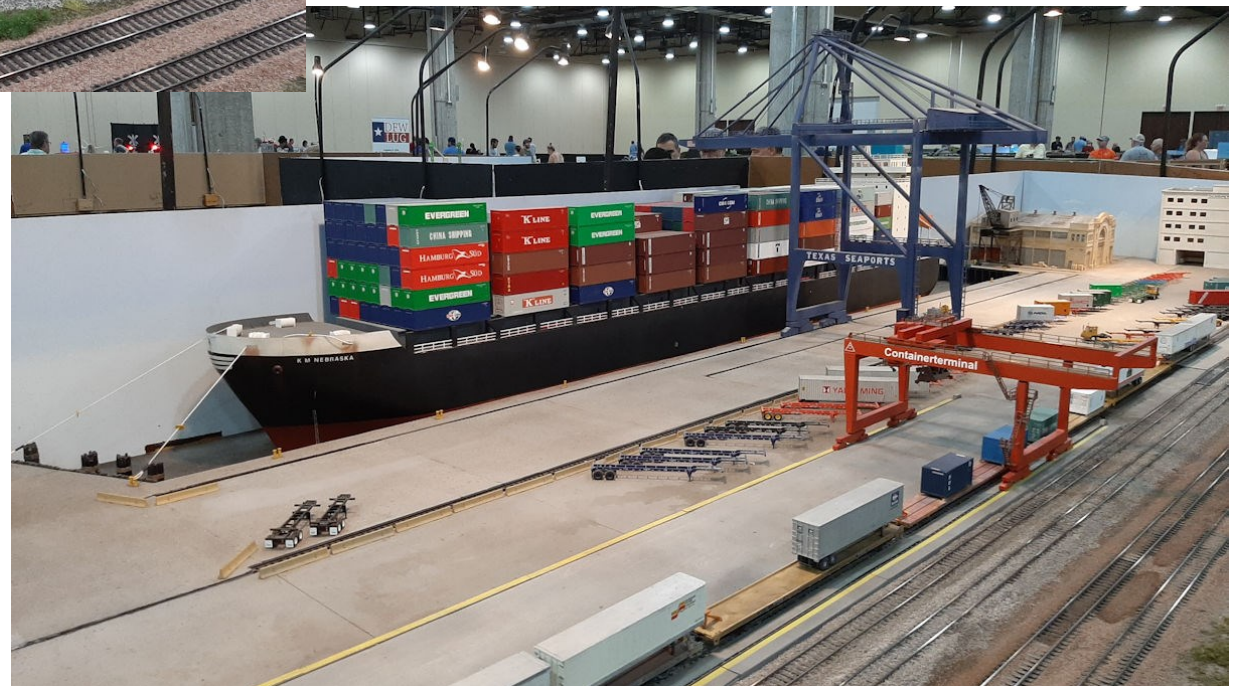
## TRAIN SHOW

### LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - HO MODULAR CLUB LAYOUT

september 2023



The Gulf Western Modular Group layout again featuring this time a roundabout grain load out and a dockside intermodal scene complete with container ship.





# TRAIN SHOW

september 2023

## LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - N SCALE, N TRAX & T TRAX MONSTER SET UP

Modules from Oklahoma featuring Tulsa City and rural areas. The module below won 1st prize in the module contest.

The set up was in a space of 100ft by 140ft! 14,000 square feet! Whoa!



**Tulsa Union Depot**

The Tulsa Union Depot was built in 1931 by a consortium of three railroads that would use the depot: the Frisco, MKT, and Santa Fe. The design fits the PWA Moderne style of Art Deco and its theme is derived from Native American art, which is common around Tulsa. Note that the Depot is actually two buildings, a larger facility on the left and a smaller one on the right. In the 1930s the South was still segregated and so-called "separate but equal" Jim Crow facilities were the norm. The left side of the depot was for whites and the right side was for people of color.

Today, the concourse leading out to the tracks is the associated...

1st Place Winner - Oklahoma N-Rail  
National Model Railroad Build-off



## TRAIN SHOW

september 2023

### LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - N SCALE, N TRAX & T TRAX MONSTER SET UP



Bridges over ravines were no obstacle, it seems.





# TRAIN SHOW

## LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY - N SCALE, N TRAX & T TRAX MONSTER SET UP

september 2023





## LAYOUT TOURS

### THE BEST OF THE REST - TEXAS NORTHERN RAILROAD CLUB, DALLAS

september 2023



The lockers around the outside are where all members store their stock on site. Lucky them to have such a place on an industrial estate.





## LAYOUT TOURS

### THE BEST OF THE REST - TEXAS NORTHERN RAILROAD CLUB, DALLAS

september 2023



Mission Control!





## LAYOUT TOURS

### THE BEST OF THE REST - TEXAS NORTHERN RAILROAD CLUB, DALLAS

september 2023





## LAYOUT TOURS

### THE BEST OF THE REST - MIKE MACKEY'S TEXAS & ST LOUIS RAILROAD

september 2023





## LAYOUT TOURS

### THE BEST OF THE REST - MIKE MACKEY'S TEXAS & ST LOUIS RAILROAD

september 2023





## TEXAS

### THE REAL THING

september 2023



Above: A liner up of GE BNSF power at Temple TX. Right: former Fort Worth & western Power at the FWWR Hodge Yard in Fort Worth.

