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YOUR GUIDE TO CTT online



**MORE INFORMATION • MORE FUN • MORE CTT
... ALL DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR COMPUTER**

story by Carl Swanson

WHETHER YOU'RE a collector in search of an elusive rarity or an operator interested in new scenery techniques, there's always more to learn and you'll find our Web site, ClassicToyTrains.com to be a great resource. From the memorable trains that built the hobby to the latest products on the market, the information you need is as close as the nearest computer.

Subscribers to CTT have free access to a wide array of extras, including an advance look at upcoming reviews, downloadable track plans, exclusive Web-only articles on collecting trains, the entertaining Bob's Train Box video series, and much more.

If you're a subscriber, be sure to head over to our website and start enjoying the extras available to you – we think you'll agree this exclusive content adds extra value to your magazine subscription.

Even if you're not a subscriber, there's plenty to see and do on our website. Be sure and visit the friendly folks that post on our Forum, sign up for our electronic newsletter, and check out the table of contents of our next issue.

On the following pages, we'll tour some of the key areas on CTT's website. Enjoy this look at the electronic side of the hobby's leading magazine.

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SUBSCRIBER-ONLY ONLINE CONTENT

In every issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine you will see this logo. It indicates that bonus information on this subject is available to CTT subscribers at ClassicToyTrains.com.

Home »

COLLECTING & OPERATING



Visit ClassicToyTrains.com to learn more about the great trains of the past like this postwar Lionel no. 2328 GP7.

how to Find it

Click on the "Collecting" and the "Operating" tabs on the ClassicToyTrains.com home page to access the table of contents pages for these sections.

Visit the **"COLLECTING"** section to read authoritative information from 20 years of CTT as well as new Web-exclusive stories only available online. It's a must for anyone with an interest in the great trains of the past. This treasure trove of information is free to CTT subscribers, who can read articles that are only available online.

This is information you won't find elsewhere, so check back often. Everyone who collects trains has a story to tell, and you'll find plenty of entertaining reading to be found in the "My Greatest Find" section of Collecting. The stories are fun and accessible to all visitors. Have your own tale from the collecting trenches? Check out our "How to contribute" section. We want to hear from you!

In the **"OPERATING"** section you'll find Questions & Answers, one of the most popular (and longest-running) sections in *Classic Toy Trains* magazine, and now online. If you have questions about repair and maintenance of trains new or old, we have the information you need. Check out our "Your Questions Answered" for the answers drawn from 20 years of Q&A. Need more? The Q&A index is the place to find the answers you need. Your Questions Answered and the Q&A search option are both free to all users.

Home » [Contact Us](#)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS



To access the center, click the "Customer Service" link found at the top right orange box above the Search This Site bar. While you're there, be sure to visit the helpful Frequently Asked Questions section as well as the Kalmbach Publishing's Gift Center.

OUR ONLINE FORUM

how to Find it

Click on the "Community" tab on the ClassicToyTrains.com home page to access the forum.

LOOKING FOR A friendly place to talk toy trains? The CTT Operating & Collecting Forum is the place for you. Anyone can read the message threads, but be sure to take a moment and register so you can add your own thoughts to the conversation. Registration is free and open to all users.

With dozens of new posts each day, there's always something new at the forum and plenty of knowledgeable people on hand. So be sure to drop by and introduce yourself. It's the place to ask questions, share your knowledge with others, post photos of your latest layout improvements, and get the inside scoop on developments in the toy train hobby.

fun Fact

Since the forum's launch, more than 60,000 users contributed to more than a half-million discussion threads covering every aspect of the toy train hobby.

PRODUCT REVIEWS



Subscribers are able to read the reviews coming in the next issue two weeks before the magazine reaches newsstands, and can see the latest products in action in our exclusive test-bench videos.

fun Fact

We can convey a lot of information on a printed page, but there's no substitute for video when you want to see a product in action. Subscribers can view more than 100 product videos at ClassicToyTrains.com.

how to Find it

On the home page, click on the "Subscriber Extras" tab on the toolbar, and the "Reviews" will be the first entry. Check out all the extras.

EACH MONTH SEES the release of great new products, with state-of-the-art electronics and superb detailing, so it's no surprise that CTT's reviews are the first thing most readers turn to in each issue. But did you know that subscribers have exclusive early access to product reviews on our website?

About two weeks before a new issue of the magazine hits newsstands, CTT subscribers can log in and read our comprehensive coverage of the latest products from leading manufacturers. It's one of the many benefits we offer our subscribers.

While you're there, watch videos of the new products in action and post your own thoughts in the review comments section.

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BOB'S TRAIN BOX



Illustration by Theo Cobb

Bob Keller, CTT new products editor, discusses the latest products to arrive in his office in the "Bob's Train Box" video series.

how to Find it

Click on the "Videos" tab on the ClassicToyTrains.com home page to find Bob's Train Box and access a table of contents listing all of Bob's videos.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE the latest products? Neither can we! In his online video series, Bob Keller, *Classic Toy Trains'* product review guru, shows the newest Atlas O, Lionel, MTH, and Williams by Bachmann locomotives and other toy train products received at our offices. It's your chance to see what's new in O and S gauge and hear the first impressions of the experts at CTT.

The "Bob's Train Box" video series is just one of the many exclusive benefits that are included with your subscription to *Classic Toy Trains* magazine.

TRACK PLAN DATABASE

SUBSCRIBERS CAN INSTANTLY download and print 80+ O and S gauge track plans from our new online Track Plan Database.



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FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

LOOKING FOR THE latest news? Want to know what to expect in the next issue of CTT? Interested in staying on top of new additions to our Web site? Join the 50,000 people who receive our twice-monthly electronic newsletter.

The newsletter is fun, informative, and free. It's our way of keeping the community of CTT readers up-to-date on the latest developments in our hobby.



Twice a month, *Classic Toy Trains'* newsletter updates you on the hobby of toy train collecting and operating. We keep you current on what's new in the magazine and on our Web site.

YES. I would like to receive this email (delivered the second and fourth week of each month)

how to Find it

Sign up today by visiting ClassicToyTrains.com, and typing in your email address in the "Get our free email newsletter" box.



INFORMATION STATION ARTICLE COLLECTIONS



how to Find it

Click the "Our store" button on the red navigation bar, click "Downloads" from the drop-down menu, and scroll down to "Classic Toy Trains Information Station."

WE'VE COLLECTED SOME of our finest articles from the past 20 years into downloadable collections you can save on your own computer or print out and enjoy. Whether you need information on wiring, scenery, or accessories, or are curious about the great toy trains of the past, you'll find it at our Information Station. The article collections are in PDF format, which can be read by both PC and Macintosh computers. The articles include the text and photos as originally seen in the pages of CTT.



Basic toy train track plans - \$5.95

- Pop's layout
- A small two-train layout
- Two-sheet layout
- High speed in 6 x 12 feet
- Layout for a room corner
- Double reverse track plan
- Look ma, no switches
- From train set to layout



Intermediate toy train track plans - \$5.95

- Thrice around the room
- Loads in, empties out
- Narrow track plan
- Family train room
- Lass-O loop
- Hi-rail in a room



Build a better layout - \$5.95

- 10 tips to make a better layout
- 10 layout mistakes
- Troubleshooting your "bad" wires
- Designing for operation
- 12 design tips
- Apartment layout – before & after
- Testing 9 types of track
- 8 show time tips



Toy train scenery - \$8.95

- Build a "hidden corner"
- Add a gorge to your layout
- Making an elevated line
- 4 steps to better-looking track
- Compact & changeable
- Build a mountain & tunnel
- How to expand your horizons
- 11 steps for ceiling tile scenery



Electricity and toy train layouts - \$5.95

- Two-train wiring
- The Watson crossing
- The ABCs of relays
- Accessory control
- You light up my layout
- Heads up!
- Add meters to your layout
- Basics of electrical switches



Transformers and wiring - \$8.95

- All about wires
- Build a control panel
- Picking your power pack
- Troubleshooting your "bad wires"
- Postwar power basics



CTT staff project layouts - \$5.95

- **Build the Coal Terminal & Trestle RR**
- **PART 1:** Turn your O-27 train set into a layout
- **PART 2:** Assembling the track and trestles on our 4 x 8-foot layout
- **PART 3:** Bus wires, switches, and connections for trains & accessories
- **PART 4:** Final scenic touches
- Planning your holiday layout – Christmas
- Build a Halloween layout



Lionel's TMCC and MTH's DCS - \$5.95

- Command control basics
- DCS delivers
- Improve TMCC reception
- TMCC rolling stock
- Command upgrade – review of TMCC refit kits
- Convert PS1 to PS2
- PS1 to TMCC Equalizer board



Repair & maintenance of locomotives (Lionel) - \$5.95

- The "A-B-C" of motor wiring
- Repairing Lionel universal motors
- Repair Lionel's whistles
- Repairing Lionel diesel horns
- Repairing Lionel's smoke units
- Repair pickup rollers shoes
- Bringing back Big Berk (Parts 1 & 2)
- Rip van Hudson



Repair & maintenance of operating cars (Lionel) - \$5.95

- Repairing milk car
- Repairing Lionel's operating boxcars
- Servicing animated gondola
- Repair no. 3424 brakeman car
- Servicing ore-dump car and repairing collector shoes
- Repairing no. 3361 Lumber dump car
- How to repair searchlight cars
- Get moving! (no. 3656 operating stockcar)
- Repairing helicopter and satellite-launching cars



Repair & maintenance of accessories - \$5.95

- Lionel's no. 445 switch tower
- Lionel's no. 30 water tower

- Lionel's no. 455 oil derrick
- Lionel's no. 497 coaling station
- Lionel's operating freight station
- Lionel bridge's falling down (no. 313 bascule bridge)
- Roll out the barrels (no. 362 barrel loader & no. 3562 barrel car)



Collecting Lionel steam locomotives - \$5.95

- K4: evolution of an engine (no. 225 and family)
- The 226E dynasty
- 224E family tree
- Lionel's mighty turbine
- Lionel's postwar big Hudsons
- Making the right connection (postwar tenders)
- A close look at Lionel's no. 746 N&W J steamers



Collecting Lionel locomotives - \$5.95

- Get smart about Lionel's postwar F3s
- Growling & purring F3 diesels
- Copy clues – spotting Lionel Train Master repaints
- Spotting copies – tips on recognizing Geep repaints
- Dressing up a queen – decorated GG1s and how to spot a restoration
- Lionel's EP-5 "Jet" electrics – paint variations tell a tale



Collecting Lionel freight cars - \$5.95

- Operating milk cars
- Who let the logs out? (postwar operating log and barrel cars)
- The ins & outs of Lionel's operating boxcars
- They're everywhere! Lionel's postwar SP-type cabooses
- Rails 'n' tails (Lionel's wacky postwar animal cars)
- The 10 best Lionel boxcars (the rarest members of the 6464 family)
- Load bearers (Guide to Lionel flatcars with bulldozers and earth scrapers)
- Making the right connection (the right tender behind our postwar steamer)



Great Lionel postwar years - \$8.95

- 1957: Big powerful Lionel trains for boys...and a special set for girls!
- Unique Lionel items of 1957



Track plans for 2005 - \$5.95

- *Model Builder* via MTH; Updating flexible 9 x 12-foot plan using RealTrax
- Full of surprises; Four routes distinguish this O-31 track plan
- Bridge out! Missing bridge adds operating interest
- FasTrack flashback; A plan from 1940 incorporates Lionel's new track system
- Conquering the Canadian Rockies; Tunnels, trestles, & trees for impressive setting
- Logging Lines Central; Get in the middle of FasTrack action
- Three-stage plan that grows; 9 x 12 RealTrax plan lets you run trains as you build



Details for toy train scenery - \$8.95

- Simple city scenery
- How to hide access hatches
- Quick scenery details; Four single-evening layout projects
- Quick scenery details; Four projects to enhance your layout
- Tricks to hide ugly plastic accessory bases
- Painted ladies...and gentlemen too
- Fender bending
- Welder-done
- A home for your locomotives
- Build a realistic grade crossing
- Small scenes made simple: 3 evening detail projects to bring a layout to life



Traditional track plans for toy trains - \$5.95

- 54 small- and medium-sized O and S gauge track

INFORMATION STATION ARTICLES (cont'd)



plans from the out-of-print book *Track Plans for Toy Trains*. The track plans are in black and white without text accompaniment.



Track plans from 2006 - \$5.95

- Waterfront terminal railroad; Busy harbor adds action to 8 x 16-foot

track plan

- Walk-in, sit-down, standout plan
- Engine terminal with a future
- A small, simple, and amazingly sensible 5 x 9 plan
- 12 x 25-foot rec-room railroad
- Central City RR: 8 x 16 plan that grows tall to avert urban sprawl
- The wild west in a 5 x 9-foot space
- Hills & harbor track plan



Basic toy train track plans vol. 2 - \$5.95

- *Model Builder* via MTH; Updating flexible 9 x 12-foot plan using RealTrax

- Full of surprises; Four routes distinguish this O-31 track plan
- FasTrack flashback: A plan from 1940 incorporates Lionel's new track system
- Three-stage plan that grows; 9 x 12 RealTrax plan lets you run trains as you build
- Wild west in a 5 x 9-foot space
- A small, simple, and amazingly sensible 5 x 9 plan
- Walk-in, sit-down, standout plan



Intermediate toy train track plans vol. 2 - \$5.95

- Bridge out! Missing bridge adds operating interest

- Conquering the Canadian Rockies: Tunnels, trestles, & trees for impressive setting
- Logging Lines Central: Get in the middle of FasTrack action

- Hills & harbor track plan
- Central City Railroad: 8 x 16 plan that grows tall to avert urban sprawl
- 12 x 25-foot rec-room railroad
- Engine terminal with a future
- Waterfront terminal railroad: Busy harbor adds action to 8 x 16-foot track plan



O gauge track selection and maintenance - \$5.95

- Introduction to contemporary O gauge trackwork – track buyer's guide

- Tubular track
- Solid-rail track
- Choosing a track-cleaning method
- Double-duty double-slip track switch
- Make insulated O gauge track sections
- Testing 9 types of track



Bending GarGraves track and more - \$5.95

- Laying GarGraves track
- Easy steps to a realistic railroad: A desert layout

- Ballasting basics for tip-top track
- Build lift-out sections steps to better-looking track
- CTT visits GarGraves



Inspiring small layouts vol. 1 - \$5.95

- Petite perfection, John Gulino's layout
- Fun on a 4 x 8-foot layout,

- Philip Denslow's layout
- Little wonder, J.D. Caboor's layout
- Tinplate 4 x 8, Rob Lihani's layout
- Small room, big fun, Henry Lahne-man's Standard gauge layout
- Big trains, small room, Kent Johnson's layout
- Small is beautiful, Jeff West's layout
- Basic training, Joe Bolton's layout



Postwar Lionel F3 diesels - \$5.95

- Get smart about Lionel's postwar F3s
- Growling & purring F3

- diesels
- Lionel F3 diesels, the scoop on paint, details, & more
- Last three Lionel postwar F3 diesels
- Repairing Lionel universal motors
- Repairing Lionel diesel horns
- New life for a tired F3, Trzoniec on restoring
- Running repairs for Lionel's F3, Weatherford on tuning up



All about Plasticville - \$5.95

- Just one word, Plasticville; 50 years of memorable structures

- Picket fences for Christmas?
- How to build better Plasticville structures
- Painting and weathering Plasticville hobo shacks

- Detailing Plasticville Cape Cod houses
- Enhancing Plasticville telephone poles
- A grander Union Station: kitbashing for an impressive building
- Plasticville-one better: turn a basic coal tower into a showpiece
- Detailing a Plasticville switch tower, 6 steps to improving this structure
- Mayor of Plasticville, Bill Nole's layout



Restoring prewar trains - \$5.95

- Royal restoration; Restore Flyer *Royal Blue*
- Repairing drawbar guides

- Coca-Cola streamliner
- Brushplate bushing repair
- Back from the edge: Restore Standard gauge switches
- Do it yourself restorations; 8 steps to renew beat-up trains
- Sandblast your way to a superb restoration
- Reviving a Lionel no. 270 bridge
- Restoring Lionel steamers



Holidays and toy trains - \$5.95

- Building the perfect Christmas layout
- Creating a family-friendly

layout

- Create your own Christmas train
- Three times around the tree
- Build a multi-level Christmas tree layout
- Q&A: Get ready to jingle! Enjoy trains at the holidays
- Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow: 3 ways to make winter scenery
- Christmas train time, The Flynn's display layout
- Christmas in *Model Builder* magazine



Masters of hi-rail - \$5.95

- Fast trains & hard drives, John Shankland's layout
- Logging & O gauge serendipity, Dave Jacobs' layout

- Pacific Northwest comes alive in O gauge, Bill Spaulding's layout
- Treading a middle ground, Joe and Jo Ann Lesser's layout



Wiring for modern Lionel accessories - \$5.95

- Get your semaphore to flip

- Heighten the operation of your dwarf signal
- Activate your crossing lights, 3 ways to wire a modern-era mast signal
- Two guys and a tower, 3 ways to wire a Lionel switch tower
- Banjo on your layout, 3 ways to wire a Lionel wig-wag
- Lights and action, how to wire your Lionel crossing gate and signal
- Block that signal! 3 ways to wire your

- Lionel block signal
- What goes up should come down
- Light up your Lionel signal bridge
- Power to the gatemen, 3 ways to wire this classic accessory



Lionel display units - \$5.95

- Amazing survivor, rare Lionel D-1601 defines "original"

- Prized display, this Lionel D-265 is a real prize
- Feel of the fifties, Cecil Hopper's Lionel collection
- Displaying the finest, Roger Bockman's Lionel D-132 display layout
- World of Lionel store displays, Mark Gaffner's postwar rarities
- Prize Lionel display, Mark Tolby's Super O treasure



The history of Lionel - 48 pages \$5.95

- This set of 8 articles includes 40-plus pages on the history of Lionel,

including a detailed 20th century timeline, a 100-year tribute to Standard gauge trains, and a 2-part feature on Lionel's competitors. Other stories focus on dedicated Lionel employees during the postwar years, including a 2-part feature on longtime employee Lenny Dean.

The articles in this collection are:

- A tribute to Lionel trains
- Centennial of Standard gauge
- Challenging the Lion: Part I, Lionel's prewar competitors
- Challenging the Lion: Part II, Postwar rivals
- The Dean of Lionel: Part I, Service defined Lenny Dean's work
- The Dean of Lionel: Part II, Lenny Dean rose to the top
- Lionel's profile in ingenuity: Charles Gaimo's daughter recalls how he inspired the company
- Lionel: Anthony LaFauci talks about the realities of making trains



Essential Classic Toy Trains stories - 56 pages \$8.95

- How much is your old toy train worth?

- Amazingly sensible 5 x 9 plan
- Guide to O gauge track brands
- Choosing a track-cleaning method
- Postwar power basics: Tips on safely using old Lionel and Flyer transformers
- Picking your power pack: What transformer is right for you?
- Handbook on layout wiring
- Make O gauge insulated track sections
- 10 tune-up tips: Get those attic-dwellers purring in time for the holidays
- Build the realistic O gauge Cassville, Tomahawk & Tomah RR
- Completing the scenery for the O gauge Cassville, Tomahawk & Tomah

fun Fact

Here are CTT's five most popular article collections.

- Command control systems
- Electricity and layouts
- Transformers and wiring
- Basic toy train track plans
- Intermediate toy train track plans