

New Member Module Handout.

The Goal of this handout is to give new members help in understanding about module basics in general and club requirements both which need to be understood when track planning or laying track.

It is highly recommended that the construction of the module itself be done by the club as a team. SMRR has work sessions where new modules can be built when needed. The club has special jigs and fixtures that insure frames and legs meet all the necessary size and angle requirements. Paint for backdrops and frames, roadbed, sealer, wire, wire connectors, and Digitrax UP-5 Connectors are all available. The club buys most of the materials in large quantities, thus keeping your cost to a minimum.

Once your base module is built and wired, all that is left is track, track feeders, and scenery.

Module Specifications and Definitions

- Track Type: Mainlines are tracks that run through all modules and are required by the club. An Optional Branch Line May Also be Installed that Can Connect Between Modules
- Number: Mainline - Two Parallel tracks on 2" centers. Branch Line – 9" In From the Main
- Location: See Diagram 2 and 4. If using a 30" deep module also see Diagram 3 and 5 for optional track locations.
- Roadbed: Mainlines (and 3 ½" front siding, see below) must be on ¼" roadbed of homosote, wood, or cork.
- Other Track: 2 other optional through tracks can be installed, 9" branch line and 3 ½" front siding. See diagrams 1 through 5 for reference.
- Track type: All track must be nickel silver. Mainline tracks and switches must be code 100. Branch line tracks must be code 100 within 6" of end of module.
- Crossover: Atlas or Shinohara #6, or Peco Large.
- Turnouts: Mainline switches for passing sidings and crossovers must be minimum Atlas #6 or Peco Large. Atlas #4 or Peco Medium elsewhere, and OK for mainline exit to switching.
- Drop-ins: The rail ends 1.5" from the end of the module and the ties continue to the end of the module. Two 3" Pieces of Rail are used for the drop-in = Spanner tracks. The drop-in rails need to have rail joiners soldered at one end, and free to slide on the other. Occasionally, depending on set up, your module maybe used as a electrical block. To allow for this, the ties must be filed large enough to allow insulated rail joiners to slip under the rail. Test rail ends by sliding an insulated rail joiner under each rail, Rail joiners should be installed on the ends of the rails during ballasting to maintain the necessary space.
- Insulators: Always insulate both rails at each electrical section (Block) boundary. A siding and/or single spur are electrically powered by the mainline it connects to. All other track work is electrically powered by the branch line.
- Curves: Gradual with no sharp "S" curves - 32" minimum radius on mainlines.
- Tunnels: Not closer than 12 inches to the end of the module.
- Appearance: Paint and weather all track and ties. Track and tie Colors = Krylon Camouflage Brown #8142, Pactra Dark Earth and Floquil roof brown.
- Ballast: Mainline – Woodland Scenics "Medium Gray" Fine – Ok to Blend in WS Cinders Switching and Branch Line – Any Mix as Desired