



Graphical scale conversion

The diagram (next page) shows graphically the relationships between prototype dimensions and model dimensions in a range of popular scales. The graph can be used in various ways depending on the type of information sought. The primary use is that of conversion from one scale to another. As an example, follow the dotted line horizontally from the 40mm point on the vertical or model axis to intersect the 4mm/ft line; then vertically up to intersect the 10mm/ft line, from this point go horizontally back to the vertical axis and read off the answer; 100mm.

To find the model dimensions in a particular scale select the prototype dimension in feet, say 17'6" project a line vertically to the chosen scale, say 4mm/ft; then horizontally to find the answer 70mm.

If we have a model tree 300mm high in 3.5mm/ft how big is it in the real world? As 300mm won't fit on the graph divide by 10 (=30) then look down the model dimensions to 30mm; across to the 3.5mm/ft line; then vertically down to reveal 8.5 feet; multiply by 10 = 85 feet high.

The direction can easily be reversed in all these examples and the figure(s) chosen would be quite easy to work out in one's head, but without the graph odd amounts would require the use of a calculator. Of course the larger the scale to which the graph is drawn the greater the accuracy with which it may be used.

I can't take any credit for the chart as I found it some time ago in a modeling book and I can't give credit to the author or publishers, as unfortunately I do not remember who they were! But thanks anyway.

Catch you down the track... Tony Mikolaj.

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