



Starting from scratch

Over the past few weeks, since receiving an opportunity to display our wares at the June 2001 exhibition at Greyhound Park, the topic of a new display layout has been discussed at quite some length. The discussion flared up again at Riverton while trying to fix some problems on our current display layout. During the course of the weekend most of the design basics were worked out, these are not fixed yet and may be subject to some variation to suit our final requirements, or suggestions from members.

- Layout to be operated from the outside – no duck under.
- Easy to set up, run, pack up and transport etc.
- No back boards – just undulating scenery.
- All wiring protected during transport.
- All fixed scenery 300mm high maximum.
- Sectionalised construction – each unit 2000mm long x 1000mm deep.
- Designed to be easily changed without major rebuilding – drop in new sections.
- Frame made from welded aluminium angle (50mm x 50mm) with foam insert.
- Legs cross-braced for stability – either as a separate trestle or fold out.
- Mainline radius 750mm minimum.
- Large radius points.
- Live frogs on all points, switched via relays.
- Two separate mainline tracks.
- One shunting area at the front on separate controller with access to/from one mainline.
- Block control with cab control override – the same as our permanent layout.
- Full track occupancy detection on mainlines.
- Fiddle yard at rear on separate modules – no need to rebuild if front display is changed.
- Fiddle yard on two different levels – no mistakes about which direction to set up trains.
- Possible cradle load and unload in fiddle yard tracks.

The plan at this stage is to build the layout as a three-sided display with the fiddle yard at the rear on the fourth side this will give a footprint of 10 metres by 2 metres plus barriers, a little shorter and less than half the width of our current display layout. This would give 24 metres (2 x 12) of mainline display track plus the shunting area. Easy enough to be set up and handled by 2 competent operators or keep up to 6 busy by running trains more frequently. More details and a scale plan with options / variations for future sections will be available for discussion at the AGM

Catch you down the track...Tony Mikolaj.