

# Welcome

Welcome to the world's greatest hobby! We think model railroading is the greatest hobby in the world, but you may wonder why we feel that way.


The answer is "choice." Model railroading offers a variety of activities for all ages and interests. Are you a history buff? You'll enjoy researching a specific time period to model your layout after. Enjoy woodworking? You can create custom benchwork and wooden structures. Perhaps you have an artistic flair, which can be used to create unique scenery, layout accessories, and backdrops.

The good news is you don't have to do all of these to be a model railroader. You can concentrate on the areas you find most interesting now, and learn other skills if and when you like.

## Fun for all ages

Many model railroaders find that the hobby can include the entire family. More and more married couples actively participate in the hobby together. And kids of all ages have always been fascinated by model trains.

What better gift can you give your children or grandchildren than your time? You'll be creating precious memories together as you share a lifetime hobby that teaches patience and the joys of creating something with your hands.

Take your time and read through this helpful booklet. Though it can only offer a glimpse into the exciting world of model trains, we hope it inspires you to begin and enjoy this wonderful, lifetime hobby. 

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Controlling a train on a layout that you built gives you a great thrill. You get to set the speeds of the train and determine the scenery you want to put on your layout.