

The **COUPLER**

Issue # 1 January, 2022



OSK Journal of O Scale 2-rail
Linking the OS2R Community



The Coupler

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Editor

Al Askerberg

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Submissions

Editor@oscalekings.org

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Cover Photo - Al Askerberg

Members can communicate directly with Secretary Nick Bulgarino by emailing secretary@oscalekings.org and with President David Vaughn by emailing president@oscalekings.org.

A Note from the Editor



The O Scale Kings Board of Directors has established this journal to facilitate communication within the community of our membership. It is distributed solely to our members. The goal is to provide the membership with news of the BOD action, news of the hobby, and news and information of the membership. It is my pleasure to serve as the journal's first editor, and I hope I am able to bring to each issue content that is interesting, informative, and useful.

This premier issue of *The Coupler* has been produced with the help of board members, advisors, and others. This issue could not have been produced without their respective contributions, and I am most grateful for their generous efforts.

Future issues, like this one, will be dependent upon the submissions from both leaders of OSK as well as

members at large. As editor, it is my job to select material from the submissions and create each quarterly issue. All of our members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles, photos, and drawings for consideration. It is only with these submissions that the continued success of this publication can be assured.

I plan to have submission guidelines prepared soon. As for now, please contact me via email regarding any submission you might have in mind. The submission deadline for the April issue is March 31.

I look forward to this journey as your editor. Thanks to all who contribute.

Al Askerberg, Editor

Editor@oscalekings.org

Contact: Editor@oscalekings.org

Great News. The O Scale National Convention cars arrived at Atlas in New Jersey. The Convention Committee will email those who ordered cars with details on how they will be delivered. To learn more go to the O Scale National Convention website at www.oscalenational.com or the O Scale National Convention Facebook page.



Check out the OS2R Product and Service Guide® at OscaleCentral.com and check out O Scale Info® Oscaleinfo.com for a comprehensive listing of information about OS2R.

Chicago March Meet 2022 is a *GO!*

Ready for a great train show after the great lockdown? Chicago's March Meet - the flagship of all OS2R train shows - is *ON* for 2022. If you are hungry for a great train show, this is your chance. There are lots of train shows, but only one March Meet!

The show is set for April 1, 2 and 3, 2022 at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL, west of downtown Chicago. Same location as in prior years. Only four months away! The extra couple of weeks from the show's traditional mid-March schedule should give us a shot at better weather.

Advance registration is well past the go/no-go level. Registration information, table sales and show arrangements are at marchmeet.net. To communicate by email, use ChicagoMeet@yahoo.com, phone contact is 414-322-8043.

Dealer set up for the show is Friday (April 1), 1-9 p.m. Trading hall is open Saturday (April 2) 9-5 and Sunday (April 3) 9-2.

In addition to the large and active trading hall, there will

be clinics, layout tours, model contest, organization meetings and opportunities to see old friends and new models.

The best way to experience March Meet is by staying at the Westin, which has great dining and accommodations. Click on the on line hotel link in the Registration Section at marchmeet.net or call 1-888-627-9031 to get the special Show rate. Don't wait.

The Show was sponsored for many years by Mike Hill and, later, the Hill family, who did a great job. The sponsorship has shifted to Brad Kowal and his experienced committee, but the show format and quality will be the same.

If you want train shows like Chicago to continue, you need to support it and get your fellow OS2R modelers to do so too.



Don't miss it!

Other O Scale Meets

You might be asking yourself, what's an O scale Invitational? Basically, we don't charge admission. Yes, it's FREE to attend! We did this last year and had a tremendously great time running trains and bringing local O Scalers out of the woodwork, We made new friends, and signed up a several new members to O Scale Kings on the spot. The venue was just large enough, and it didn't break the bank. It was our way to give back to local O scale 2-rail community. Check out the one coming up below. Perhaps something like that would work in your community.

March 4 – 6, 2022: Tequesta, Florida

O Scale Invitational 2022: The 2nd Annual O Scale 2-Rail Meet.

Friday and Saturday 10AM – 6-PM, Sunday 10 AM – Noon at the American Legion located at 775 US-1 North, Tequesta, Florida 33469. Admission is FREE, Tables are \$20 each (tables limited reserve now). American Legion full-service dining room and lounge open to all attendees, modular layout, raffles, swap meet, buy sell or trade. Sponsored by the Southeastern Florida O Scalers. For information and tables for sellers contact Stephen Pariseau (561-222-3908) or e-mail sdpariseau@gmail.com or Walter Horlacher at horlacherw@bellsouth.net

Check out other coming O Scale 2-rail events at
<https://oscaleinfo.com/WP/events/>

MADE YOU LOOK!
OS2R models so real they look like 12"/ft



OS2R Sunset Third Rail Geep, weathered Photo by Lee Turner



Time to renew your Dues

**You can renew your dues for 2022 by
going to the O Scale Kings Website
home page
And click on "JOIN"**

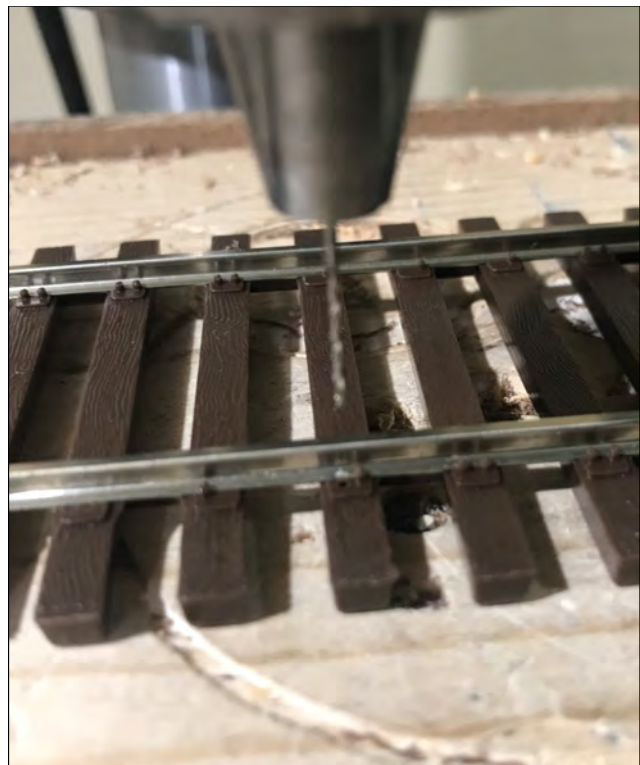
Drilling Micro Engineering Track for Spikes

By Eric Peterson

I am expanding my O Scale layout and using flex track and purchased turnouts. I drill the ties so I can spike the track to Upson board instead of gluing.

The Micro Engineering flex track and the "Ready to lay turnouts" with ties from Bill McConnell at O Scale Turnouts do not have spike holes. I am taking the time to use my drill press to drill spike holes next to the base of the rail about every 4 to 6 ties. A number 65 drill (0.035") is working as a clearance hole for the spikes I am using.

I prefer spiking my track so it is possible to make changes and minor adjustments to line and surface. The later addition of glued ballast will strengthen the track.



What's on Your Workbench?

Hosted by Bruce Blackwood

Welcome to 2022! Seems like it was just Y2K the other day. This should be the first "What's on Your Workbench" in the new O scale Kings journal. I am also hoping that we can continue to post these monthly on the website. I hope you know that there's a couple years' worth of these on the website, so you can go back

and catch up. I hate to do it, but I'm going to start the new year by begging for submissions from the membership. What I am looking for is about a page of text and a couple of photos of what is on your workbench. Please send to:

pastpresident@oscalekings.org

For this issue I'm going to share a recently completed project. I built a set of test rollers to aid in my DCC insulation/programming. I used a piece of 1" x 1" aluminum angle, some Masonite, metric screws and nuts and lock washers and some roller bearings.

I found plans on the old Internet, by searching YouTube. The aluminum angle and the Masonite were left over from other projects. The screws, washers, nuts and the roller bearings came from Amazon. I decided to build these myself as the commercial ones available were way



over my budget, and besides, I am an O scale two Railer!

I pretty much just followed the plans, the most difficult part was making sure I got good alignment for the mounting of the roller bearings so that the wheel sets would sit in between. I found the easiest way to do this was to use an X/Y table I picked up at a train show a few years ago.

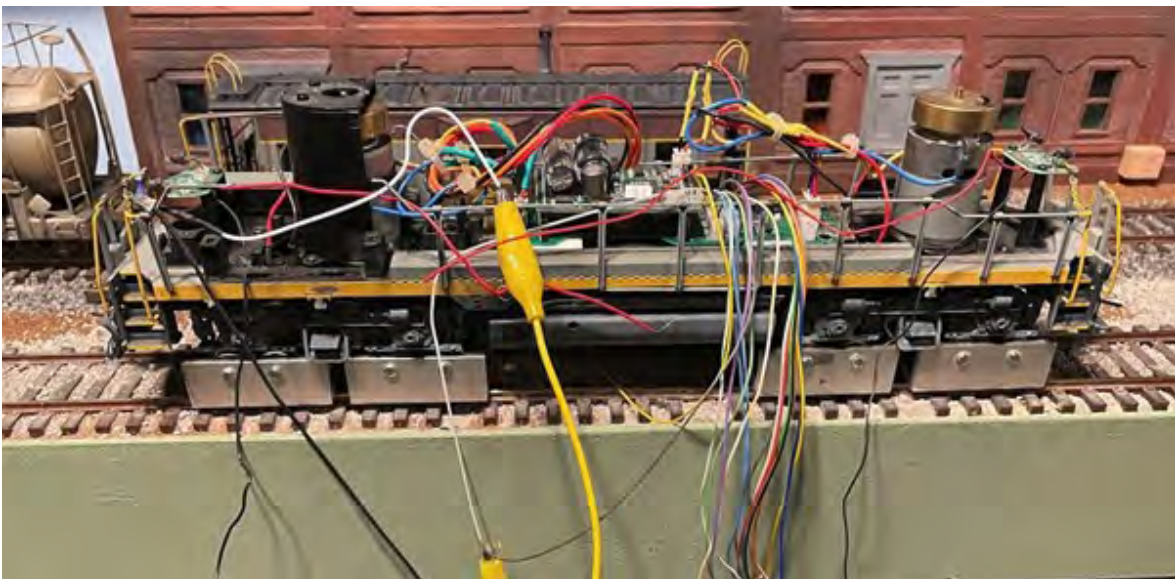
I also discovered through the online video, that there was a tool I didn't have! Turns out they make a combination drill and tap. I picked up a set from the local harbor freight and they were wonderful. You drill the clearance hole and then tap in one continuous motion which makes the threads perfectly aligned with the hole. As I'm sure you

know, the Masonite insulates the two rails and allows power to go to the wheel-sets which allows stationary running.

This device is a huge help when you're trying to do things like set up your headlights, trying different bells and whistles or horns. I have not done a re-power with these yet, but I imagine they are going to be extremely helpful making sure there are no hiccups in the drive.

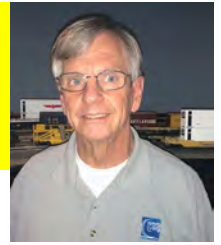
Happy new year! Hope it's filled with O scale two rail trains.

~ Bruce



NMRA and 1/48 Model Railroading

Eric Peterson, NMRA SIG Coordinator



The National Model Railroad Association was formed in 1935 to promote standards for the hobby that was then dominated by O Scale. 1/48 model railroading has a long history that continues as other scales have developed and expanded.

The NMRA is a worldwide organization with 20 Regions and many Divisions within each Region. If this sounds like a typical prototype railroad organization it is no accident.

So what does the NMRA do? The NMRA provides an organization for all scales and gauges of model railroading including National, Regional and Division activities.

The local Divisions often have the most regular activity. Monthly meetings are common on the Divisions and activities often also include layout tours as well as organizing train shows. Most Regions have an annual convention and there is a National Convention and Train Show each year.

These activities are prepared and presented by member volunteers working together for the good of the hobby. Non NMRA members are welcome to attend NMRA events to see what is available and meet new friends. After attending a few events NMRA membership is required to attend future activities. Other activities are always open to

the public such as train shows.

NMRA Conventions feature live clinics on both modeling projects and techniques as well as prototype current and historic information. They are a great chance to talk with the presenters and ask follow-up questions to get more details. Introducing yourself to other modelers at clinics, on bus tours and other events makes it easy to contact them later for additional information or to visit their layout.

Conventions also feature layout tours in the metropolitan area. Operating sessions are organized on different area layouts. I have always found something of special interest or that puts a smile on my face at every layout I have visited regardless of scale.

Models are also displayed for a variety of purposes. Model are entered in different contest categories. Models are also reviewed using the same uniform criteria for merit awards for the different Achievement Program categories. There is also an area for displaying models.

These are good opportunities to show the advantages of 1/48 modeling. I have attended quite a few NMRA National Conventions and Train Shows and they are a great gathering of modelers with all levels of experience.

NMRA standards(S) and Recommended Practices (RP) for all scales is very important to the hobby. As an example the continued improvements and in Digital Command Control (DCC) is led by NMRA DCC standards to maintain the quality and interoperation for all scales. Past S's and RP's have and continue to document other topics including gauge, wheels, turnouts and other documentation that makes free interchange of equipment for all our scales including O, P48, On3, On30 etc. The NMRA Standards group is open to suggested improvements and changes follow a defined quality approval process.

I have found the most valuable advantage of NMRA membership and activities is the contacts with other model railroaders. I have made many new friends through NMRA membership. These friendships have not only been enjoyable but also as a way to get idea and help with modeling projects, additional idea, and access to new technology. I have several new friends here in Indiana living just a few miles away from our home through attending NMRA gatherings.

I have been an NMRA member starting with my dad working on our



NMRA/CID Modelers Meet

HO home layout as well as starting to attend NMRA National, Regional and Division events. I have modeled in O Scale 2 rail for over 50 years and been involved in NMRA leadership at the Regional and Division level. I have always found NMRA members open and welcoming to me as a modeler in O Scale. Many NMRA volunteer leaders have been and are now O Scale 2 rail modelers.

I have recently gotten involved with O Scale Kings and the expansion of information and activities for 2 rail 1/48 modelers in different gauges. O Scale Kings is also included as a qualified nonprofit NMRA Special Interest Groups (SIG). Inclusion by NMRA provides advantages for promotion of O Scale activities as well as administrative advantages.

Members of OSK are not required but are encouraged to be NMRA members. OSK and the NMRA are model railroading organizations focused on providing friendships and resources for members as well as exposing others to the hobby.

You are welcome to contact me.

Eric Peterson

sigrep@oscalekings.org

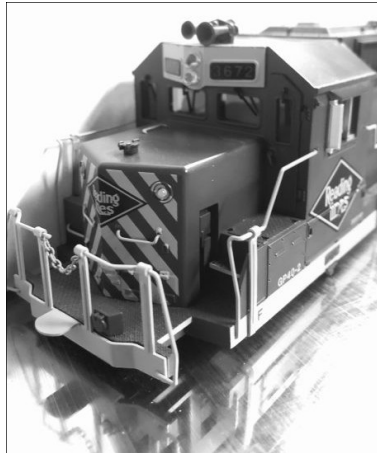


NMRA/CID Modelers Meet

All-Nation Returns!

John Wubbel

As small companies go, it seemed a big task one year ago to embark upon reviving a business dormant for 14 years; a job starting from scratch to sort things out. Hardware, tooling, patterns and inventory aside, the paper business documentation review consumes much time.



The journey of exploring the past and moving to the future has been most enjoyable with our recent milestone of developing a professional On-line All-Nation Hobby Shop Web Store.

<https://AllNationLine.com>

We have been encouraged and blessed by so many well wishers and O Scale hobbyists providing us advice, comments and suggestions to see our way forward. We have worked with and helped so many modelers that have become our friends in 2021.

A unique but fun challenge keeping us on our toes was scrambling to find parts (while sorting through everything) for modelers who were as excited as us about the come-back of All-Nation Line. Today's electronic technologies for book-keeping and inventory management allows more time to continue the tasks of work triage, reconnecting

with vendors and analyzing all the tooling.

With much still to do, we are putting our heart into a new level of modeling by respecting the past and bringing the old line to the new.

Following the past history of All-Nation Line we intend to continue to manufacture products in the USA. For example,

we were surprised to find a fellow in Kersey, PA whose father made the wheels and axles for All-Nation for many years. Even more surprising was the fact that they still had our drawings, specifications and tooling to continue manufacturing for us. Consequently, a machine shop business, like All Nation, was passed onto the next generation in the family.

Another surprise has been the global recognition of the brand and the good will. The All-Nation Line is well known around the world, and we have been able to ship parts to various countries outside the USA where there are many modelers in O Scale. With each order we ship an O Scale Kings membership application with the "Who We Are & What We Do" flier to support our efforts and promote O Scale 2 Rail through the King's organization.

One of the most asked questions, "What about those F Units and the Switcher engines?" The good news is that the dies still exist and are warehoused with the die casting company in Chicago. We paid a visit last June to reconnect with the company and examine the dies. The dies look to be in excellent condition. If we decide to produce those models again in quantity, the owner of the die casting company said they would still work with/mount on their die casting machines.

On the other hand, not all things are as glorious. Of all things, it seems no one makes anymore the very specific tiny escutcheon pins. These served several purposes including assembling wooden kits but also as rivet head detail. Thus, our supply is very limited presently as tens of thousands of pins were included in the kits over the years.

So if we look ahead, there are plenty of tracks that we can take in the future. We will do some research and development projects to bring forth new products and maintain support for the old line product categories for the vintage restoration work. No matter how you look at it, it is a marvelous craft and one we think is worth keeping alive.

Thank you to so many of the King's members that have purchased products from us in 2021 to support our efforts. Funds go right back into the business to build and "pay it forward", so to speak, as a resource for future O Scale 2 Rail model railroaders that are yet to discover what fun we all are having.



O Scale Modules

Rich Randall

I have always enjoyed watching trains run around modular displays at train shows. Scale does not matter to me in this context - I like them all. But one day in the remote past, I discovered the first 2-Rail O Scale modular layout that I had ever seen! It was the Harrisburg, PA club layout, operating at Timonium, MD (Maryland Fairgrounds). Later I saw the Columbus, OH group's 2-Rail layout. And I eventually learned there are others around the country.

When I moved to Gettysburg in 2002, I was eager to join the Harrisburg Group and participate in the portable railroad effort. To my chagrin, the group dismantled the layout, sold the transportation trailer, and gave up the portable railroad business. But the group hung together and I joined. To this day we

continue as the South Central PA O Scalers.

Back to modules: Let's consider these definitions:

"Module"

A module is a portable table-like structure which is part of a group of similar tables which when assembled together form a large and fully operable model railroad. A module is designed to fit anywhere in the layout, and in any orientation of endplates.

"Section"

A section (as opposed to "module"), is a portable table-like structure or group of such structures which when assembled together form a large and fully operable model railroad. Each section fits in a specific place and orientation in the overall layout.



Basic O Scale Utility Module (corner module)

“Free-Mo”

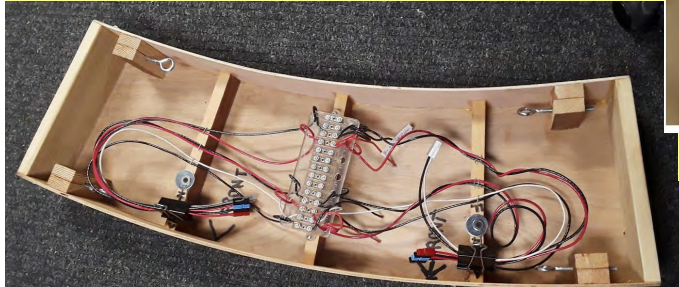
The organization free-mo.org has promulgated an HO standard. The objective of the Free-mo Standard is paraphrased as follows: to provide a platform for prototype modeling in a flexible, modular environment with modules that emphasize realistic, plausible scenery, track work, and operation. Free-mo goes beyond the traditional closed-loop set-up by creating a truly universal “free-form” modular design that is

operations oriented and heavily influenced by prototype railroading. This concept primarily serves model railroaders who like to operate trains in a prototypical fashion.

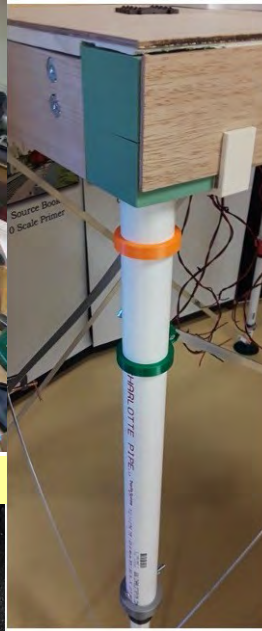
Portable O Scale model railroads are a way for O Scalers to assemble operating model railroads at train shows, conventions and other display opportunities. This is one of the best ways to expose others to O Scale two rail model railroading. It can also especially be fun for guys lacking their own layouts. N track, a highly successful true module stan-



Underside of module assembled with 3D parts



Basic Module underside



Telescoping legs with 3D parts



O Scale Kings BOD member John Wubbel produced 3D printed module components which greatly simplify module construction and set up. Included are corners, brace supports and telescoping leg parts. Some of these parts are currently offered on *Conductor Railway Hobbies* website (<https://www.johnwubbel.com>), as they are useful for any module effort. The draft standard includes these options.

Modules continued

dard sees large numbers of participants gather at train shows where they and hook their modules together into very large layouts. HO free-mo guys are having a grand time running trains at shows where free-mo layouts can be set up. So why shouldn't O Scalars have the same fun the HO and N guys are having?

Most of the existing O Scale portable railroads I am aware of will not easily connect with each other. Transition modules can be used to connect module groups with different construction practices. It would be good if O Scalars could bring a module to an event and connect it to many others to create a large O Scale railroad that all participants and observers could enjoy.

I have drafted a common standard called the Basic O Scale Module (BASO-MO) Standard. Sample corner modules have been designed and built, with an objective to operate it at Timonium some time in 2022. This standard is designed to address several issues:

1. Fully modular. Any module built to the standard can connect anywhere in a railroad built to the same standard;

2. Accommodate DCC, which provides sound effects and independent control of trains;

3. Accommodate "Free-Mo" by providing a way to branch off a continuous loop;

4. Accommodate interoperability by describing ways to adapt most existing portable railroads to connect with the new design standard modules (this creates a potential for larger layouts without requiring all new construction);

5. Provide an adjustable height leg design, to accommodate different environments;

6. Promote portable 2-Rail O Scale railroading in multiple locales across the country.

O Scale Kings plans to host the draft standard on its website in an appropriate location. At that time we will solicit feedback and experience of other O Scalars in order to improve the standard. Other resource to be hosted there is a nominal database of U.S. O Scale sectional layouts. This was assembled by OSK BOD NMRA SIG Representative Eric Peterson, apprise O Scalars of local groups with sectional layouts and encourage participation.

Meanwhile, I can be reached by email at rrand4449@aol.com.

Rich Randall
Advisor to the OSK BOD for Modules

That's it for this Premier issue of **The Coupler**. If you would like to contribute an article or photos for a future issue, contact me at Editor@oscalekings.org

Al Askerberg, Editor