



Recipe For a Model Railway

Ingredients:

1. Enthusiasm
2. Spare time
3. Understanding partner
4. Moderate handyman skills
5. Small collection of simple hand tools
6. Somewhere to store a baseboard and collection
7. Moderate budget
8. Friends to share the hobby with

Method

1. Select the scale to be modelled
2. Select the prototype or theme
3. Start to acquire suitable locos, rolling stock, etc.
4. Decide the size of layout
5. Sketch out the basic track layout and discuss it with experienced friends
6. Decide the complexity or simplicity of electrical items
7. Construct a baseboard, making provision for future cable runs for electrical controls.
8. Lay track carefully, using templates (such as Tracksettas) to avoid kinking track joins.
9. Test bare track with a variety of locos and rolling stock, to find and rectify any anomalies.
10. Install wiring for controls and accessories.
11. Test the track again. Adjust as necessary.
12. Install scenery items, avoiding long tunnels (which make track cleaning difficult).
13. Install ballast to tracks, taking care to not foul pointwork.
14. Clean tracks.
15. Test the track again. Adjust as necessary.
16. Stand back and admire your work, then share it with your friends.

Tips

1. Join a model railway club to share knowledge and skills.
2. Start to build up a reference library of magazines, books and drawings. (It does not have to happen overnight!)
3. Be prepared to buy second-hand items from shops, eBay or at exhibitions. (There are many bargains to be had.)
4. As your skills improve, you may wish to build your own models, starting with kits, then adapting them to your own ideas or even building unique models from scratch.
5. Many items are now available off-the-shelf that will help you set up your first layout.
6. Talk to other modellers and have a go!