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Photo of custom build European Buildings by author

A WVMGRS Seminar

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Photos of KayDee LugBahn, layout of author

L Scale: Lego Trains

Have you seen something weird at Greenberg Shows recently? Trains made out of Legos? Bet you didn't know that Lego made trains.

Many of you see different Lego sets in toy stores, Walmart, etc., when shopping. But did you know that what you saw there is just the tip of the iceberg? What many people don't know is that Lego also has a separate home catalog service with many other kits not available in stores. Besides their many other lines, the Lego company has a 30 year tradition of trains. Most of them are only available through the Shop At Home catalog or S@H as its known in Lego speak. Currently their train line is 9 volt electric track powered system, though in the past they had 4.5 and 12 volt trains.

The Lego company current production offerings include large and small steam engines available in five different colors and with or without a tender, a passenger car, tank car, hopper car, log car, and caboose. They also have a Metroliner set with two engines (one unpowered) and one car, with a separate bi-level add-on car available. They have several sets that are sold in toy stores, one being a red and black diesel freight set and a blue passenger train. Besides these, the home catalog also sells a train station, straight, curved and cross-over track, manual switches, power packs, and many misc. pieces such as extra wheels, bumpers and boogie plates, for you to kitbash your own rolling stock.

This photo shows the Lego Harry Potter line with the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with the Metroliner and add-on bi-level car surrounding.



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Lego, as any other hobby, has its own lingo. Two of the most common terms used in Lego trains are: MOC (My Own Creation) and MOT (My Own Train). MOC is the Lego version of "kitbashing" and MOT is their new line of steam engines. This picture is an example of a MOC that I built. This almost completed engine shed is a creation completely from scratch out of standard Lego bricks.



As with any hobby, the internet is full of wonderful links and pages devoted to just Lego trains. An entire world exists out there with hobbyists proudly making complete working scale models of just about any train engine in existence and train shows held to show off their creations are frequent.

American Modeling:

L Gauge: Tom's Lego Stop
<http://www.lgauge.com>

Tom is a local person in the WVM area that has created many great models of GP38, SD45, Industrial switchers, and several different steam engines. Not to mention tons of different kinds of rolling



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stock, and structures such as engine houses, water towers, coaling tower, signal towers, etc. Tom was also the originator of modifying Lego engine blocks to DCC (Digital Command and Control). His full presentation on this to include many great step-by-step pictures are also on this website.

Pacific Northwest Lego Train Club
<http://www.pnltc.org/>

This club sets the standard here in the United States. There are many great articles and photos on this site. I believe this club also holds the record for the most track footage at a train event.

European Modeling:

FGLTC: First German Lego Train Club
<http://www-public.tu-bs.de:8080/~rbeneke/lego/fgltc/fgltc7.html>

Awesome website of many original European buildings and rolling stock. Modelers have made versions of the ICE, Saxony steam engines, various DB engines, loks, crocodiles, and many more.

The Vancouver Lego Club
<http://www.akasa.bc.ca/vic>

General Lego Modeling:

Lego Users Group Network
<http://www.lugnet.com>

This is the primary hangout on the internet of ALL adult Lego modelers of all of the different Lego lines. There you will find newsgroups for every type of Lego ever sold and a complete database of all sets ever released with full information and pictures of each set.

Lego Photo gallery
<http://www.brickshelf.com>

This is a massive users gallery of Lego MOC (My Own Creation) pictures. Users post individual modeling pictures and train clubs post hundreds of photos of their recent shows.



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Come join us in the Lego World of Trains!