

While waiting for our Amtrak Capitol train back to Sacramento, I caught the photo below of yet another rail commuter operation in the Bay area. This one is called the Altamont Commuter Express, or

“ACE” train. We weren’t aware of this operation, but it probably wouldn’t have made a difference if we were, as it runs into San Jose (westbound) in the morning, and back out (eastbound) at night. Maybe another time!



The ACE locos appear to be Amtrak F40 castoffs. The paint scheme of the ACE trains is striking, what with maroon, blue and white. And once again, these train cars look like the Athearn models of the Bombardier cars.

Our Eastbound Amtrak Capitol finally pulled in to the platform, and I don’t think Larry or I was afraid to sit down after a long day. The train filled with people as we headed north along the East Bay, and finally East to Sacramento, but we held our ground with our seats. A long day, but definitely worth the time and effort. The cost wasn’t bad either. Yes, it’s something we’d do again.



## Modemo Tokyo Trolley

Modemo stock number NT7 is a model of a Tokyo series 7000 street car. Although the model is 1:150 in scale, the minute difference makes no difference in it’s appearance on an “N” layout. The “feel” of this model is something we’ve been looking for in our scale. Although a bit fragile, my two trolleys seem to run well. The frame is plastic and tends to warp slightly out of shape after awhile. A metal frame would be much more helpful.

I purchased my models via the internet from N Scale Supply in Colorado. ([www.nscalesupply.com](http://www.nscalesupply.com)) Availability seems to “come and go” and you may have buy it when you see it.



Above: Modemo NT7 Tokyo series 7000 trolley. Working trolley pole is by Keith Reinschreiber and is a beauty. I don’t think he currently has them available, but you might check with PE model supply at: [www.richeatonmodels.com/index.html](http://www.richeatonmodels.com/index.html)

## WWII ERA TROLLEY

While spending some time on the Minnesota Historical Society’s website one day, I happened to access an old photo of a Twin Cities Rapid Transit car on the Selby-Lake line during the second world war. The purpose of the paint scheme was to advertise war bonds and stamps.

Although the photo is black and white, it was fairly obvious the car had the bottom painted red, the window band white, and the roof blue.



I thought this would be a neat looking car running the trolley loop around my amusement park module. I didn’t try to model the car exactly as the prototype, rather I attempted to elicit the “feel” of the original car. The paint job was pretty straight-forward, and I used rub-on lettering.



The shell is a Father Nature Trees product, the master for which was made by NCN subscriber Jim Brewer of Florida. ([www.fathernaturetrees.com](http://www.fathernaturetrees.com)) The model uses a mechanism from an Atlas RS-1 diesel for power. It’s a good runner and usually draws comments from viewers.

