

NCAT MODULES

This page gives a good look at Larry Ede's St. Paul, Buffalo & Thunder Bay Modules. Each module measures 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep, and the pair is meant to go together as a single six-foot scene.

As you can see, Larry is fond of town scenes, so the two modules are chock full of structure kits from many manufacturers, including (but not limited to) Design Preservation, IHC, Faller, Kibri, and Heljan.

A lot of time was spent at the workbench working on the structure kits. Modifications include painting and many added details such as window curtains and shades, building signage, and roof detail. What a great way to use up some of the many bags of detail parts you might have in your spare parts.

There is some animation added to the module, including both operating windmill and oil pump rig.

The highlight of the module pair is, of course, the traction operating under live wire.

Larry modified a pair of Tomix #2620 light-rail cars by isolating the electrical pickup so the units are fed electrically via one rail with power returning through the overhead wire. Each Tomix set has one car powered and Larry added a Sommerfeldt pantograph (#966) to the powered cars.

Each module contains a half loop of track. The cars start from the rear of the module and move to the front where they stop at the depot. After a period of time (adjustable,) the cars reverse direction and move to the back of the module. This procedure goes on for hours at train shows, and I've never seen the setup fail or break down. The circuit that controls the light-rail action on the modules is about as simple as it gets, and is built with currently available parts.

We call it "Budget Back & Forth. Unfortunately, this is one NCAT NEWS construction article that never found its way into the NCAT NEWS Project Book series. Circuitron sells a similar circuit if you can't live without trying this technique. Perhaps you'll see this in print if we ever get around to producing another "Special Issue."



Above: The photo shows the meeting of Larry's two modules. The two light rail lines come together at the depot. The units stop here for awhile, then make their way to the rear of the module before starting the trip all over again.

