

N-Circle Railroad Updates – Table of Contents

Overview of the N-Circle Railroad Series

An overview of the plans for the development of the N-Circle Railroad N-scale layout.

N-Circle Railroad Layout Diagram and Scenery Plan

A track plan for the layout with the major scenery components.

Overview Photos

A series of photos showing the entire layout, which will be updated as sections of the layout scenery are updated.

Index of Structure and Scenery Details Kits

A list of the structure and scenery kits described in the N-Circle Updates, including kit name, manufacturer and part number when available. This hopefully will be helpful to anyone who wants to try one of these kits themselves.

Index of Vehicles Kits

A list of the vehicle kits described in the N-Circle Updates, including kit name, manufacturer and part number when available. Again, a reference for anyone looking for one of these vehicles.

Initial Release – Summary - January 23, 2020

- Introduction of the New T-Trak Modules with Kato UniTrack for the N-Circle Railroad
- A couple of introductory photos of the layout
- An attached video of a 1980s Central Vermont freight train

Update 1 – Re-Introductions – August 13, 2020

- Introduction of the Four Modelling Period/Location Scenarios of the N-Circle Railroad
- Photo Overview of the Areas of the Layout

Update 2 – Power Point Scenery Details – August 15, 2020

- More Details on Temporary Scenery Panels Created with Power Point

Update 3 – Throwback to the 1950s – September 10, 2020

- Photos of 1950s Central Vermont Steam Trains on the N-Circle Railroad
- Simple Raised Sidewalks and Curbs Add Realism to City Streets
- Kit-Bashing Two Modern Truck Depot Kits from Model Power and Pola into One Long Freight House
 - Rearranging wall sections to create appropriate spacings for boxcars
- Detailing a Con-Cor Log Truck

Update 4 – Focus on Backdrops and Scenes – September 25, 2020

- Building a Moveable Backdrop for the Outer Edge of T-Trak Modules
 - Cardboard panels with mountains scenery created in Power Point for a moveable backdrop for photos
- Adding Details to a Micro Engineering Murphy Manufacturing Freight Depot
- Photos of Updates to the Scenery Panels on the N-Circle Layout

Update 5 – Backdrop Discussion and Named Passenger Trains – December 23, 2020

- Creating Inexpensive, Moveable Backdrops from Photos from the Web
- Southern Pacific and Santa Fe passenger “name trains” modeled with short cars for a small layout

Update 6 – Discussion of Changeable Scenery and Workspace Venting Project – March 8, 2021

- Exhaust Fan for Venting Modelling Fumes through a Sliding Door in Winter
- Heljan Freight Depot Kit Build
 - Detailing a simple kit build and creating a removable extension section
- Freight Yard Module Personalization
 - A freight yard module with multiple tracks personalized as a 1980s TOFC yard and as a 1950s freight yard
- Photo of Vermont trains in the N-Circle’s North Yard

Update 7 – Constructing and Upgrading Building Kits Using Interchangeable Signs – April 7, 2021

- Piko Forwarding Office Kit Build
 - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
 - Creating interchangeable cardboard roof signs to repurpose a freight depot for different businesses
- Life-Like Volunteer Fire Company Kit Build
 - Building a fire station with an open interior
 - Creating interchangeable signs attached with magnets to repurpose a fire station for different cities
- Life-Like Police Station Kit Build
 - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
 - Adding interior light block walls
- Heljan Furniture Factory Kit Build
 - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
- Updated photos of the N-Circle layout incorporating recently completed buildings

Update 8 – Repurposing Low-End Plastic Building Kits to Create Distinctive Structures – August 14, 2021

- New Workbenches for building the N-Circle Railroad
- Life-Like Rapid Recycling Center Kit Repurposed as a Wayne Feeds Grain Mill
 - Adding a rear loading dock and door and signage
 - Eliminating light leakage in the interior
- RIX Products Guthrie Grain Kit Build
 - Building and detailing a pair of steel grain silos and an elevator for the Wayne Feeds Mill
- Model Power Fire House Kit Repurposed as a Restaurant
 - Simple kit-bashing of a plastic kit to a new purpose
 - Strengthening corner joints of buildings with plastic sprue scraps

Update 9 – Three Very Different Plastic Structure Kit Builds and Interchangeable Gondola Car Loads – October 2, 2021

- Atlas Suburban Passenger Station Kit Build
 - Tips and challenges from building a current-release, nicely detailed plastic kit
- AHM American Farm House
 - Upgrading an old “snap-together” plastic kit
- Pikesstuff – RIX Products Engine Facility Kit Built as a Hopper Unloading Shed
 - Configuring and optimizing a very flexible recent-release plastic kit for a specific purpose: a grain hopper unloading shed for the Wayne Feeds Mill
- Layout Scenery Panel Updates
 - Rebuilding the scenery panels for the N-Circle layout using foam-core board
- Gondola Car Loads
 - Interchangeable gondola loads built on templates for incremental car lengths

Update 10 – Easy, Inexpensive Building Interiors and a Mini-Golf Course – October 25, 2021

- Model Power Suburban Houses Kit Build
 - Creating very simple interiors from scrap materials
- Walthers Cornerstone Dew Drop Inn Kit Build
 - Creating simple multi-level interiors using photos captured from the Web
- Merten Mini-Golf Course Kit Build
 - A simple-to-build interesting scene

Update 11 – Building a Fuel Depot from Four Kits and Modifying an Existing Structure – December 2, 2021

- Con-Cor Cambria City Fuel Rack, Depot and Tanks kits build
 - Building three commonly available plastic kits and adding detailing for a multi-configurable scene
- Building and Detailing Showcase Minatures Truck Kits
- Modifying the Roof Structure on an Existing Building

Update 12 – Building Shell Gas Station Scenes for the 1950s and 1980s and Vehicles Kits – January 30, 2022

- Walthers and City Classics gas station kits build
 - Building two commonly available plastic kits and surrounding scenes with many detail parts added
- Building and detailing Showcase Minatures, GHQ and C&C Minatures pewter metal truck kits for the Shell oil & gas facilities
- Building and detailing NuComp resin plastic car kits
- Updating the school scene
- Kitbashing a Wiking German truck into an American grain truck

Update 13 – Building New Restrooms for the Park, 1950s School Buses and 1980s Grain Trucks – September 5, 2022

- Green Max rest rooms kit build with kit-bashed roofs and scenery base
- Painting and detailing 3-D printed grain trucks
- Building and detailing GHQ pewter metal semi-trailer kit
- Building and detailing resin plastic school bus kits

Update 14 – Building and Detailing Pewter Metal Vehicles Kits Across a Range of Complexities – October 8, 2022

- GHQ and C&C Minatures pewter metal basic trucks
- GHQ and Showcase Minatures highly detailed pewter metal emergency trucks
- Decaling school buses from Update 13

Update 15 – Building a Bowling Alley and Building and Detailing Plastic Resin Vehicles Kits – October 31, 2022

- Upgrading a simple plastic store kit from Wirl Wind for use as a bowling alley by adding signage and details
- Plastic resin automobile kits from Road Apples, Bruce Richardson's Cars, Fine N Scale Models and Garrick Gilhan's
- Storage system for N-scale vehicles

Update 16 – Creating Custom Decals, Painting a 3-D Printed Structure and Building Thin Metal Detail Parts Kits – December 26, 2022

- Creating custom decals for vehicles using decal paper and a home inkjet printer
- Painting a 3-D printed plastic hot air balloon
- Building thin metal bicycles, shopping carts and telephone booths from Gold Medal Models kits

Update 17 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 14, 2023

- Plastic resin automobile and truck kits from Cars N Scale, Hagen N Scale, Magnuson Models, Road Apples and Garrick Gilhan's
- 3-D printed plastic vehicles
- Johnny Lightning metal vehicles

Update 18 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – October 31, 2024

- Modifying an Ultimate N-Scale Tanker Trailer
- Modifying a 3-D Printed Tanker Semi-Truck
- Kit Bashing Classic Metal Works Trucks
- Building California Freight and Detail Company Vehicles Kits
- Building More Road Apples and Cars N Scale Resin Car Kits
- Building More 3-D Printed Truck Kits

Update 19 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 9, 2024

- More Simple 3-D Vehicles
- Three metal vehicles kits
- Upgrading Low Quality “Ready-to-Run” Models
- Authentic Minatures Dump Truck

Update 20 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 22, 2024

- Building More igmakes 3-D Printed Truck Kits
- Building stukamilov Resin Molded Trucks
- Skyline Creations 3-D Printed Backhoes
- New Construction Scene Panel

Update 21 – Building a Yard Signal Tower and More Vehicles Kits – April 30, 2025

- Building the Atlas Signal Tower Kit
- Building Three More Bruce Richardson Resin Car Kits

Update 22 – Scenery Upgrades - June 3, 2025

- Designing a Power Point Scenery Panel for the Northeast Corner
- Installation of New Backdrops on Endcaps

Update 23 – Building Laser-Cut Chicken Coop and Maple Sugar House Kits - June 6, 2025

- Building the Noch Chicken Coop Kit
- Building the N-Scale Architect Maple Sugar House Kit

Update 24 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Barn - June 7, 2025

- Building the American Model Builders Country Barn Kit

Update 25 – Building a Craftsman-Level Laser-Cut Wood Theater Kit – July 17, 2025

- Building the Laser-Art Structures / Branchline Majestic Theater Kit

Update 26 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Church Kit and a 3-D Printed House - July 25, 2025

- Building the Northeastern Models Old South Church Kit
- Creating Colored Stained-Glass Windows Using Microscale Kristal Klear
- Building a Simple 3-D Printed House Kit

Update 27 – Building Laser-Cut Wood Doghouses and Garages Kits – August 16, 2025

- Building the GC Laser Doghouses Kit
- Building the RS Laser One-Car Garage Kit
- Building the Blair Line One-Car Garage Kit
- Building the Atlas Two-Car Garage Kit

Update 28 – Building a T-Trak Module with 3-D Printed Structures – October 23, 2025

- Crossing Print McDonald's Restaurant
- Crossing Print Tim Hortons Restaurant
- Skyline Creations Sheds
- Streets and Parking Lots Using Power Point

Update 29 – Building a T-Trak Module with Farm Scene with Many Scenery Details – November 20, 2025

- Building and Detailing the Gloor Craft Country Barn Kit
- Building and Detailing Simple 3-D Printed House and Garage Kits
- Making Custom House Shutters
- Painting N-Scale Cows
- Building the Monroe Models Barnyard Fence Kit
- Building a Curved and Striped Rural Paved Road