



Oregon, California & Eastern Railroad Frequently Asked Questions



What is the size of the layout?

60 x 96 feet – approx. 5,500 square feet.

How long is the mainline?

1,353 feet or over 20.5 scale miles. The layout has 80+ scale miles of total track.

How long is a scale mile in HO?

60.7 Feet (HO scale is 1/87 of the prototype).

How long does it take to run a train over the length of the mainline?

Running at a scale of 20 mph, it takes over one hour – assuming no meets with opposing trains!

How many locomotives are on the layout and are all the locomotives powered?

Over 200+ locomotives and all are powered.

How many freight cars are on the layout?

Over 2,500+.

How long are the trains?

Trains vary, but most are 45--50 cars and a few are over 80 cars. A 50-car train with five locomotives is approximately 35 feet long or more than one-half of a scale mile!

How much does a train weigh?

A 50-car train weighs approximately 15 pounds, not including the locomotives.

How long did the layout take to build?

Five and one-half years with over 45,000 hours of volunteer labor.

Is the layout based on a real railroad?

The Oregon, California and Eastern Railway was a real logging railway in South-Central Oregon that operated until the early 1990s. This layout is roughly based on that line, but this version is a bridge line that handles traffic from the Southern Pacific, Great Northern and Weyerhaeuser Lumber.

What time period is the layout set in?

Fall 1975.

Are the names of the towns real?

Most of the names are real towns in South-Central Oregon that were actually located on the real OC&E Railway. For example, Klamath Falls, Dairy, Sycan, Sprague River and Bly were all towns located on the real OC&E. Quartz Mountain was located on the old right-of-way and Lakeview, Dog Lake and Gearheart Mountain were in the immediate area.

How many tunnels and bridges are on the layout?

Twelve tunnels and 15 bridges are on the mainline.

What type of track was used?

Commercially available code 83 for the mainline, code 70 for the secondary and industrial tracks and code 100 in the staging area.

What are the minimum radius curves and turnouts?

Mainline minimum radius is 48", branch line 36". Mainline turnouts are no. 12, mainline spurs are no. 8 and yards and industrial areas are no. 6.

What type of control system is used to operate the trains?

Wireless digital command control by North Coast Engineering (NCE) with programmable decoders in each locomotive. Each locomotive consist has at least two locomotives with sound decoders and speakers.

How are the signals and turnouts operated?

With a real CTC dispatcher's panel and a dispatcher with radio communications with each train's engineer. There are 150 signals on the railroad controlled by the dispatcher.



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What is the scenery made from?

Stacked Styrofoam insulation board was covered by plaster. The plaster was then covered with real dirt and ground foam. Rocks were made from actual castings of real rocks.

How many trees are on the layout?

16,000 fir trees, 8,000 deciduous trees and 4,000 aspen trees on the layout - all hand made.

How is the water simulated?

Using a clear two-part epoxy casting resin that was poured over the pre-painted stream and lakebeds in as many as four separate pours. Working the resin as it hardens simulates the waves and rapids.

What do the digital clocks represent?

The clocks are "fast clocks" that run at a six-to-one ratio to simulate the scale of the layout for operating trains on schedules. For example, a 24-hour period is represented by four real hours.

How are the cars and trucks operated?

Each vehicle is powered and guided on the roadway by a magnet connected to the steering that follows a wire embedded in the road surface.

Do the ship models actually float?

Yes, in fact they are radio controlled and can be operated in forward, reverse and turn in either direction plus they have sound and smoke effects.