

T-TRAK Modular System

No wires, No legs, Just sit them on the table!



Lee Monaco-FitzGerald created the concept of T-TRAK for trains and is responsible for bringing it to popularity in the USA. Her background in N scale includes years of work with NTRAK. Check out the T-TRAK website at www.ttrak.org for more information on Lee and the T-TRAK concept.

T-TRAK in Australia began in 2003 when Andrew George of St Arnaud in Victoria made the first modules. The MelbNTrak model railroad club followed up next with members making modules, after Andrew gave a demonstration of his T-TRAK modules to the Club.

With the T-TRAK tabletop modular system you save many hours of time in building fixed layouts or large modules. Think of T-TRAK as a 'bookshelf layout'. The module system locks together quickly and yet also easily comes apart for display on a bookshelf.



(photo by R McFarlane)

Two standards have emerged in this new modular concept for the dual track centre-to-centre track separation - 25mm and 33mm.

The existing T-TRAK modellers in Australia have chosen the 33mm track separation (known as the Alternate standard). With the 33mm spacing tracks are laid to accommodate larger locomotives, passenger coaches and freight cars, and also avoids the awkward looking change in track separation when the main lines go around a curve which occurs with the 25mm track spacing. All other measurements are the same.

The T-TRAK concept relies upon the interlocking qualities of Unitrack®, manufactured by the KATO model railway company of Japan. Unitrack® is available by mail order from the following retailers:

Branchline

490 Dorset Rd, Croydon VIC 3136

Ph: (03) 9723 1211

Web: www.branchline.com.au

Japanese Model Supplies

PO Box 24 Northmead NSW 2152

Ph: 0410 650 109 (between 5pm-9pm AEST)

Web: www.japanese-model-supplies.com



(photo by R McFarlane)

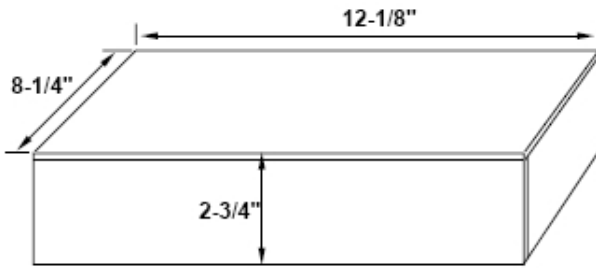
With T-TRAK, you and your family can enjoy running the trains and then put them back 'on the shelf' until the next operating session.

Now imagine having your entire 'empire' on a shelf.

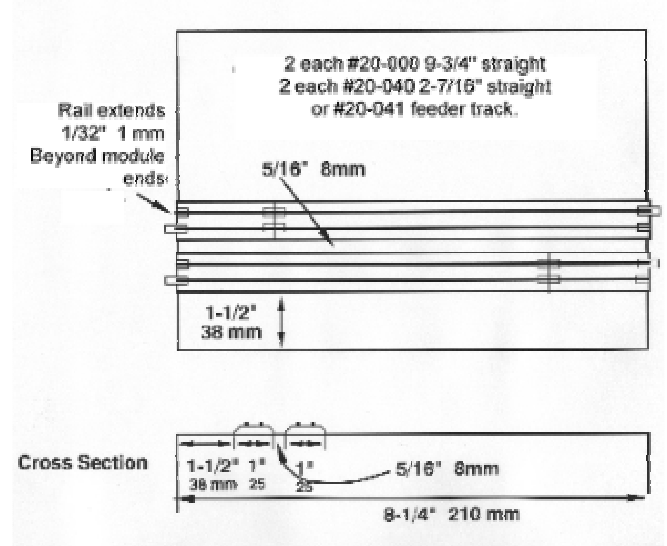
(PTO for diagrams and further details)

(Aug06)

Straight Modules

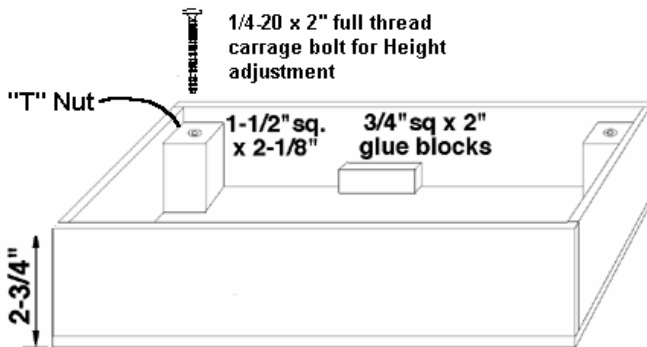


Straight Modules are exactly 308mm (12 1/8 inches) long so that 2 pieces of KATO Unitrack® (248mm and 62mm = 310mm) fit on the top. The tracks will extend past the top edge 1mm at each end so that the Uni-Joiners® will mate correctly. The depth of modules can vary from the original standard of 210mm (8 1/4") all the way to 365mm (14 3/8"). But so far in Australia the preferred depth of the modules has been either 210mm or 300mm.



Corner Modules

Corner Modules are exactly 365mm square so that two KATO Unitrack® radius (315mm and 282mm) curved track fit on the top. The tracks will extend 1mm past the edges so that the Uni-Joiners® will mate correctly.

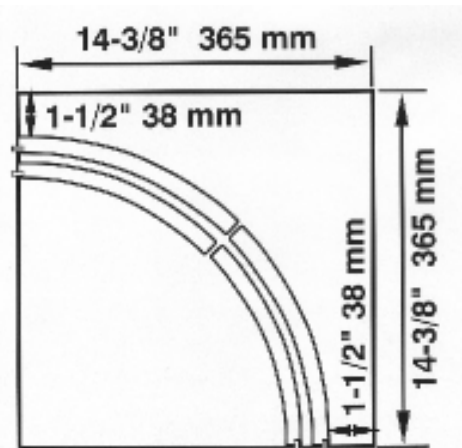


PLEASE NOTE that the total depth of the sides of the module box is to be 70mm (2 3/4"). The carriage bolts are only there in case fine adjustments in height are required.

Think of 70mm (2 3/4") as the height.

Note: To get the correct track centres, so that all Alternate standard T-TRAK modules can interchange, measure very carefully. The Kato #24-000 Rerailer has notches that fit the rail tops to give the 33mm track spacing.

* T-TRAK logo and the drawings are Copyright 2001-2005 Lee Monaco-FitzGerald



Electrical

Only one module is wired up for electrical input; the Unitrack® UniJoiners® doing the rest. This module uses the Unitrack® Feeder Track (#20-041) which has a Blue and a White wire already attached that can be connected to a train controller. To ensure standardization, make sure the Blue wire goes to the outer rails.

For further details (and developments) contact:

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'T-TRAK in Australia' webpage

<http://homepages.picknowl.com.au/austnscale/ttrak.htm>



The special run T-TRAK Caboose