The BTR – Paratable.

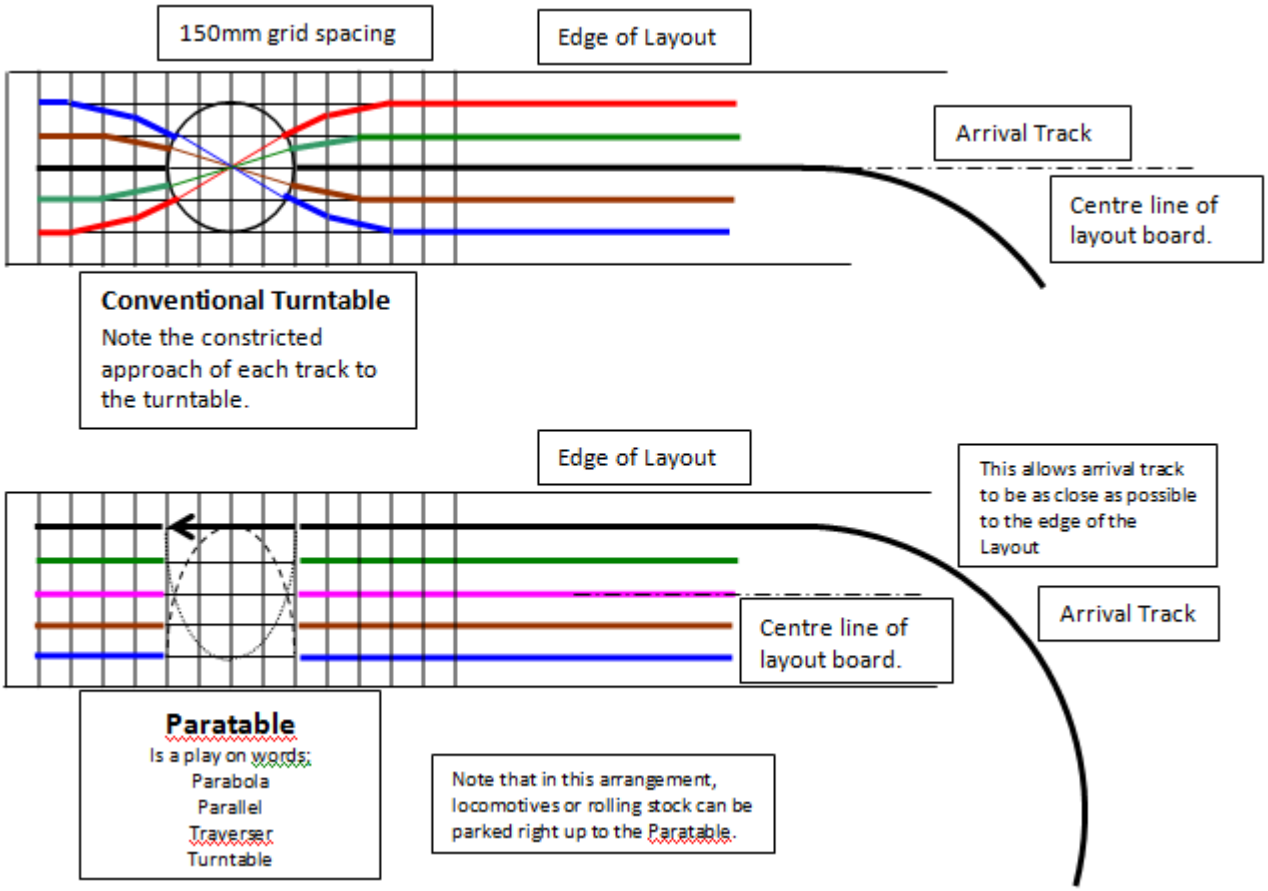
The **PARATABLE** is an intriguing development by Geof Coleman, in Sydney, Australia.

The concept of the PARATABLE combines; two Parabola, a circle and a traverser to solve a unique challenge for the Barron Tableland Railway. This technique may be beneficial to others who find available storage track length to be limited on their layouts. The following notes & sketches depict the concept.

A video is available on YouTube http://youtu.be/p9akH1kNb0Q

Why did I feel the need to develop the Paratable?

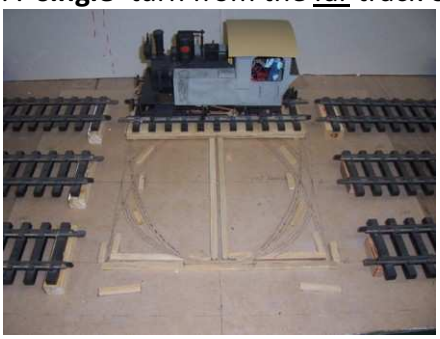
- To attain the greatest radius for the arrival track approach curve into the fiddle yard that meant that this track was close to the back edge of the track layout board.
- In the limited layout length available, I wished to optimise available track length for rolling stock storage capacity.
- To avoid the constricted lead in radii for several tracks to a conventional turntable. A feature that limits how close a piece of rolling stock can be parked to the turntable. I thought of some other likely ways that a locomotive or a piece of rolling stock could be turned 180 degrees, or positioned on another track.
- Sitting in an Aeroplane one day I noticed the mechanism that lowered and raised the seat back tray in front of me. That gave me an idea. To use the concept of a parabola.
- When I started developing the concept, it occurred to me that two parabola opposing each other could allow even more options. I also realized that it could behave as a Traverser. Then when trying it in a mock up I found that it could also behave as a conventional turntable too.



The **PARATABLE** can perform a variety of maneuvers; next page shows just two in a sequence of photos.

The BTR – Paratable. A video is available on YouTube http://youtu.be/p9akH1kNb0Q

A **'single'** turn from the far track ends with the Loco turned 180 degrees and yet still on the same track.

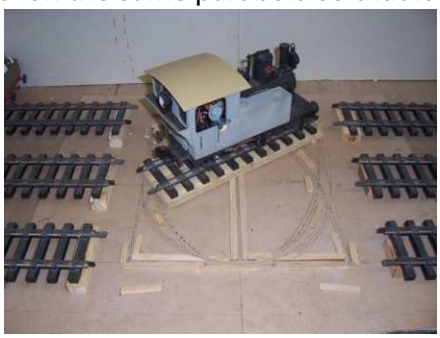

Loco facing left on far track.

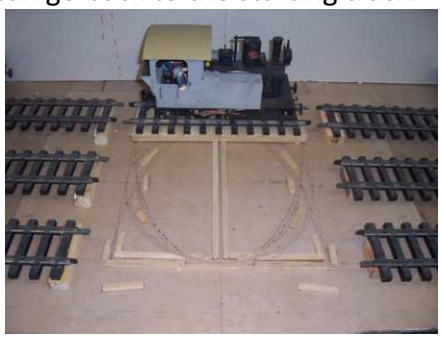

First half of parabola sweep.


Almost half way through sweep.

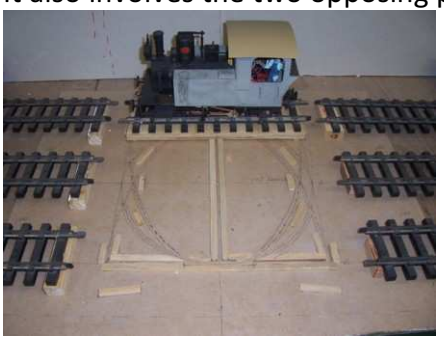
At this point the transit track 'stays' on the same parabola so that it can go back to the starting track.

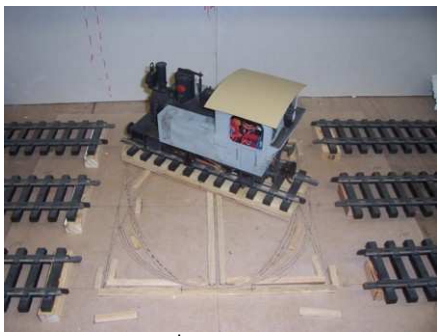

Just past half way of sweep.


Second half of parabola sweep.


Loco facing right on near track.

A **'double'** turn from the far track ends with the Loco turned 180 degrees and on the near track.
It also involves the two opposing parabolas.

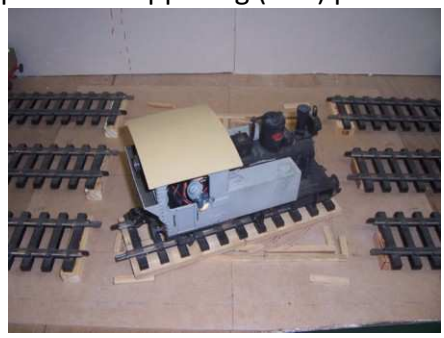

Loco facing left on far track.


First half of 1st parabola sweep.


Almost half way through 1st sweep.

At this point the transit track 'swaps' to the opposing (2nd) parabola to come into the near track.


Just past half way on 2nd sweep.


Second half of 2nd parabola sweep.


Loco facing right on near track.

The **PARATABLE** can perform a variety of maneuvers, watch the VIDEO referred to above.