

MEMRC PROJECTS

A/O: 1 JUNE 2017

CURRENT PROJECTS:

1. **Splitting the Layout Into Individual Power Districts:** This ongoing project is giving us increased ability to isolate an electrical problem to a specific area of the layout, rather than having to search the entire layout for the cause of a problem. It involves extensive work under the layout running individual color coded buss wires for each power district; installing new drops from the tracks to the new buss wires; and pulling out and discarding the old drops and buss wires.
2. **Installing Turnout (Switch) Position Indicators:** This ongoing project is giving us clearer visual indication of a turnout's position from a distance; particularly for turnouts that are distant from the operator's position. We have installed several 'area' boards on the wall, and on one side of the layout that depict the track routes and turnouts in that area; and indicate the position(s) of the turnouts with red and green LEDs. We are presently installing 'in the roadbed' LED indicators at the turnouts where it is impractical to depict them on 'area' boards.
3. **Converting Turnout Control From Toggle Switch to DCC Throttle Control:** This ongoing project is allowing train operators on the layout to remotely control the position of the turnouts from their DCC throttle instead of having to move to one of the 'switch panels' and then searching for and throwing the appropriate toggle switch. It involves installing and connecting 'stationary decoders' to each turnout's 'tortoise' motor, and disconnecting and discarding the old wiring between the 'switch panels' and the turnouts as we go. The additional benefit of this project is the removal of many long runs of wire under the layout, and the eventual removal of the two 'switch panels'.
4. **Construction and Installation of a Replica of Glen Carbon Coal Mine #2:** This ongoing project started with the construction and modification of a coal mine 'kit'; and presently involves the installation of turnouts and track spurs to support the mine. It will also involve installing associated scenery throughout the mine area.
5. **Construction and Installation of an Iron Rolling Mill:** This ongoing project involves the construction and modification of a large set of Iron Rolling Mill kits; their installation along two walls of the layout, and the installation of appropriate scenery in the area. Special rail cars used by the steel mill are also being built.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

1. **Build Plexiglas Windows Around the Rest of the Layout:** Continue the wood framed windows for the rest of the layout. This will keep little fingers out and prevent inadvertent damage to scenery, etc. in the areas close to the edges of the layout; while retaining the clear views of the layout. Some of these windows need to be easily removable for easy access to the engines, cars, etc., where needed.
2. **Realign a Main Line at Either End of the Madison Yard :** This project will re-route the main line tracks so that they travel around the Madison Yard, instead of through it.
3. **Rebuild the Madison Yard:** This project will provide lead-ins and lead-outs from the main lines and allow simultaneous switching at both ends of the yard.