



OPERATING TOY TRAINS IS ...

FUN!

The more trains and people involved, the more fun! And with larger layouts (usually impossible in smaller homes) there can be new experiences, new challenges, new opportunities for fellowship. Hence the

Tinplate Trackers - Austin, Texas

Who? What? Where? How?

Who are Tinplate Trackers?

We are a group of people enjoying the operation of O-gauge tinplate trains on modules that are basically standardized, yet open to unlimited improvisation. We are not a club or organization in the usual sense. Rather, we're individuals who believe we can have more fun by working with others of like interest in building and setting up large operating systems of modules. To date our largest layout has been a 36' square layout.

What is Tinplate?

Tinplate, in train language, refers to the toy trains and track -- such as American Flyer, Marx and Lionel -- built before World War II, when they were actually made of metal. However, toy trains built today are mostly plastic but the tinplate rails still remain. Tinplate trains are larger than most scale model trains and are lots of fun.

What are modules?

A module is a unit, a short section of railroad, built to standard specifications so that it can be joined with other such units to form an oval layout. We thus distinguish it from a sectional layout, used by many clubs, which is made up of a number of units which assemble in only one way. The Tinplate Tracker modules, made in a few basic types, can be assembled in many, many different ways.

How large are the modules?

Our specifications will help you build modules small enough to fit in almost any car (including compacts), light enough for one person to carry and set up, and that can be assembled into a system ready for operating in a matter of minutes.

1. Modules are 2' x 4' long, mounted on adjustable legs with the tops of the rails 40" above the floor. Modules are fastened together with C-clamps.

2. There are four main lines of regular O-gauge track. The first track center rail is 3-1/2" from the front edge of the module. The second, third, and fourth track are 4-1/4" from the first. The tracks end 5" from the ends of the module and connect to the tracks of the next module via 10" sections of tracks.
3. Electrical connection between modules are made with 4-wire cables with 4-pin plugs/sockets and 6-wire cables with 6-pin plugs/sockets. Full details are in our Manual.

How Do I Join?

It's simple. There are only a few "must do" items in order to join the Tinplate Trackers; otherwise you may do as you please.

1. Participate in club activities.
2. Pay dues and assessments as established by the board of directors for the year.
3. Have fun!!
4. You also have an option to build, upgrade or purchase a mainline module that conforms to the club standards.

How do I get started?

It's easy. Attend one of our upcoming events. If you have a train you want to run, bring it with you. When you join the club, a current club member will be assigned as your sponsor. Your sponsor will help you when you have problems or questions. Have fun!!

Is there a charge for this?

Yes, but it's low. Our dues are \$25.00 per year to help defray costs incurred by the club. You will receive the manual plus a series of Newsletters. You'll also receive additions and updates to the manual. Please join today.

Where?

Many of our events are held at the Branch Creek Estates Club House, 12609 Dessau Road. We also run at several Train Shows in Central Texas and visit layouts that our members have constructed in their homes. We also have a 4'x8' layout that can be displayed at churches, schools or other local venues.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

**Run your O and/or O27 gauge trains (even though you don't have a layout) on a new, easy-to-build module system?

**Obtain helpful technical information and specifications to aid you in building standardized modules?

**Receive periodic Newsletters that brings you the latest information about the club?

**Join with other Tinplate Trackers at informal get-togethers or at train meets to make a large operating layout -- up to 10 times a year?

**Have a lot of fun with others, share tips, ideas, help each other?

Then join the Tinplate Trackers - Austin, Texas today. For more information about our club visit our web site www.trainweb.org/ttat or call Steve Wise at 512-444-3310. You'll be glad you did.