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# **HO Trains Track Layouts – Simple Guides For Effective Ho Trains Track Layouts**

In creating your **HO trains track layouts**, you have to keep in mind that you should enjoy what you are doing to come up with effective train track layouts. Of you enjoy what you are doing, creativity an effective imagination will follow next. The following are some important guidelines that will help you come up with realistic and ideal layouts for your HO train tracks.

There are free online tools like free software that can help you design and modify your train track layout. You will be surprised that they can be found easily on the internet and that they are fun to use!

However, you can also do your track layout using the old fashion way: pencil and paper, a compass and a ruler for curve and straight lines respectively. You also have to take note that no matter how exact your designs are, you should do necessary adjustments when you have come the point of laying your materials on your train layout.

You may also want to work on your layout right on location by putting track pieces that should be switched loosely into position o get a feel of what the layout is going to look like. You can also move all the items that you see around until you are pleased and satisfied with your designs and arrangements. This procedure is known as the “going-free-lance” method.

Oftentimes, it will be helpful to leave deliberate space or openings whenever you feel like changing and adding the designs later. Say for example, you may want to leave a space which will be utilized as your train yard in later purposes. This is a good option for those people who might not have enough time or money to buy accessories yet. This is a rewarding option because the user will have the privilege to improve his HO trains track layouts over time. It's like investing on something that is very much enjoyable and rewarding on your part.

There are also some important details that you should incorporate in your train layout design. One of these details includes the incorporation of the different types of yards, like a gentle slope that comes with an uncoupler that allows cars that are coupled to pass through the mainline.

On the other hand, a staging yard is a form of yard that is deliberately hidden from the views of you train layouts. This is actually where the trains wait.

Another essential guideline for your HO trains track layouts is the minimum and maximum radius for your trains' turns. HO trains should have the following radius requirement: 18” for 4-axle diesels and 22” for 6-axle diesels. However, there is a general rule that radius becomes ideal when it is maintained at a 24-inches radius turns.

As for the full circle the diameter should be 48 inches which means you have to maintain a minimum of 4 feet space to for this kind of layout.

The last guideline to keep in mind is to ensure that all parts should be properly maintained to avoid malfunctions. Make sure that all parts and accessories used are strong and durable so that you will enjoy your **HO trains track layouts** for a longer period of time.

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