CSX Northeast

Dave Martini

Dave Martini's CSX Northeast is a 24'x40' protypical freelanced layout representing both CSX and Conrail prior to the breakup of Conrail. The layout features a single track mainline from Buffalo, NY to Cleveland OH both represented by staging. The CSX Northeast features several overhead freights moving heavy tonnage (TOFC's, thru freights, unit coal and grain), along with east and west Amtrak service. There are several large industrial switching areas served by both locals and sweeper trains. A branch line to the 2nd deck allows access to a large coal loading facility. Two short line railroads, the fictional S&N and the the Central Ohio System have interchange locations in addition to servicing their own customers. Operators during a typical 3 hrs session will be kept busy with 12-14 mainline trains, several local freights, yard jobs and extras. Mainline trains are dispatched by a master schedule while locals and yard jobs work from switch lists. The layout is DCC (Digitrax) with operating signal on the West end of the Division.

Contact Info

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Layout at a glance

Name: CSX Northeast
Scale: HO
Size: 12'x 25' and 2'x 40'
Prototype: CSX/Conrail pre merger
Locale: Western NY/Eastern Ohio
Era: Late 90's
Style: Linear walk around
Mainline run: 175'
Minimum radius: 30" Mainline, 24" industrial
Minimum turnout: #6 main, #4 industrial
Maximum grade: 2%
Benchwork: open grid
Height: 38" lowest, 60" highest
Roadbed: Homosote over ½" plywood
Track: Atlas code 100
Scenery: Plaster over foam
Backdrop: Painted wall/commercial backdrop
Control: DCC/Digitrax

Operating positions:

Road Crew #1: Operates 4-5 mainline trains (including Sweeper/Amtrak/Overhead freights/Grain and Coal)
Road Crew #2: Operates 4-5 mainline trains (including Sweeper/Amtrak/Overhead freights/Grain and Coal)
Road Crew #3: Operates 4-5 mainline trains (including Sweeper/Amtrak/Overhead freights/Grain and Coal)
Euclid Yardmaster: Operates the Ohio Central and the associated switching district. Interchanges with CSX and supports sweeper trains.
E. Euclid Yardmaster: Operates the cement plant with CSX interchange. Also operates the S&N.
Fairport Harbor Yardmaster: Operates the Fairport Harbor Industrial District. Generates outbound freight for both CSX and NS.
Erie Yardmaster: Operates Erie Yard and the adjacent industrial district. Several over the road trains need servicing at Erie including the sweeper trains, TOFC, and general freights. Erie is also the interchange point for the S&N Railroad.
CSX Dispatcher: Controls train movement

Comments:

-Typical op-sessions last 2-1/2 to 3 hrs, operators are busy but not rushed.
-Movements are controlled by dispatcher, signal system is in-process and active on west end of layout.
-3x5 index cards give clear and concise instruction to mainline operators.
-Industrial area's and yards work from switchlists.
Improvements since the 2008 Convention.
-All duckunders have been removed, all mainlines switches have been automated, added the Central Ohio system and interchange, updated scenery/custom backdrops.