

New Haven Railroad

Ed O'Rourke

Ed is attempting to model the New Haven Railroad as he remembers it growing up along the "Electrified Zone," modeling the area around New Haven Station in the early 1950's. Mainline passenger trains exchange electric motors for steam or diesel in New Haven. Mainline freights are pulled by electric, diesel and steam. Trains run point to point from two staging yards, one representing New York, Washington, and Maybrook, the other functioning as Boston, Springfield, Montreal and Cedar Hill Yard. Electric operations are under (non-powered) catenary. Ed has also modeled the Canal Line and New Hartford branch, which is an out and back switching turn and RDC passenger trains. Scenery is 90% complete.

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Layout at a glance

Name: Ed and Judy O'Rourke
Scale: HO
Size: 25' x 7'
Prototype: New York, New Haven & Hartford
Locale: Connecticut
Era: circa 1950 – some anachronisms in both directions
Style: Along the wall, with duck-under
Mainline run: 70'
Minimum radius: 28" on Main, 24" on branch
Minimum turnout: Mostly #6, some #4 and #8
Maximum grade: 2 – 3% from staging
Benchwork: L Girder
Height: 45 to 55"
Roadbed: Cork, foam
Track: Code 100 on the main, some code 83 and 70 on branch and sidings 70
Scenery: Eastern hills, City and suburban
Backdrop: Photo Murals from LARC Products
Control: Digitrax DCC with Sound



Operating positions: 4 total Spots

Canal Line engineer
New Haven Yardmaster
2 road engineers

Comments:

There are a variety of different jobs, which can be shared or swapped around.

Note that space in the train room is tight and accessed by 7 steps down. It is located in a finished basement. No smoking!