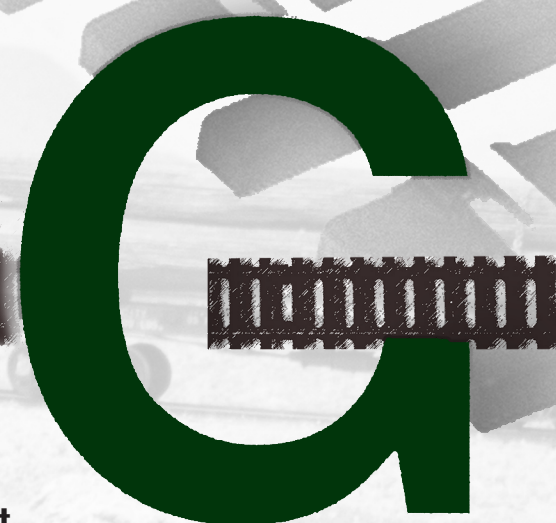




a sample of Div. 1 layouts



Steve Zapytowski

I served the 'Dark Side' is how Steve describes his 25 years as Professor of Design and Technology in the School of Theater and Dance at Kent State University. The dark side is, Steve explains, because all his teaching was directed to behind the scenes work.

Now retired, Steve has been applying his knowledge and creativity in lighting, video and sound design, set design and scenery creation to his superbly constructed Pacific Northwest based 12' x 25' HO/HOn3 *Tillamook & Astoria Railroad*.

The Tillamook & Astoria Railroad Company

A quaint HO/HOn3 layout loosely based on a fantasy railroad of the early 20th century Pacific Northwest



Division 1 member Steve Zapytowski's *The Tillamook & Astoria Railroad Company* may depict an early 20th century small backwoods railroad, but this HO/HOn3 basement layout uses the latest 21st century technology to help tell its story. From Berrett Hill Touch Toggles embedded in a smooth glass surface to a unique T girder construction, this western Oregon inspired railroad is designed for smooth and reliable operation.

Steve's roots in model railroading started with S scale *American Flyer*. He then jumped into the hobby seriously in high school with HO scale while growing up in Fairfield, CT. Then came college, family and a career which all put the trains on hold. Now retired for three-and-a-half years Steve joined the NMRA in 2014 after working on his layout for a number of years. With a recent expansion the layout now has over 188 feet of mainline standard gauge, 136 feet of narrow gauge and 11 feet of dual gauge trackage. The 44 turnouts are mainly Micro Engineering with some Shinohara.

Steve came up with a unique 'T girder' construction on 16" centers, with the T inverted allowing risers to be attached to either side with enough room to work comfortably between them. Steve also worked with Berrett Hill to design a universal translator to interface DCC with the point motors. This greatly simplifies control of turnouts throughout the layout.

Steve's favorite aspect of the hobby is, "whatever I'm working on now." He has attended one National and two Regional NMRA conventions where his scratchbuilt structures have taken numerous awards in contests. He presently serves as Assistant Superintendent of Division 1 and his continuing series, *Tales of a Shay: From Wreck to Reincarnation* is regularly featured in the *Peddler Freight*. Steve's *Tillamook & Astoria* has successfully melded century old railroading and digital technology into one beautiful train layout.

The 'Mary D' is a lumber schooner named in honor of Steve's great aunt who was in the lumber business in Michigan. The shallow draft waterline kit was made by *Coastal Forces*. (clockwise from below)

The log flume is based on a prototypical one in Washington. The Tender's Penthouse is Steve's own design.

Steve points to two universal translators he helped design to control point motors.

Steve's scratchbuilt engine house is bracketed by standard gauge in front and narrow gauge to the rear.

A 70 ton Class C Climax is crossing the trestle in the foreground while two Denver & Rio Grande 3 foot gauge C-19 Consolidations labor upgrade in the background. The Climax is a *Bachmann Spectrum* model while the narrow gauge steamers are by *Blackstone Models*.

