

# a sample of Div. 1 layouts



**Don Avila**

Division 1 member Don Avila has modeled in z scale for 17 -18 years. His present 4 ft. by 8 ft. custom designed layout was originally drawn up for n scale in 1978 by the famous John Armstrong. With some minor changes Don converted the plan to z scale which allowed for more scenery without changing the overall footprint. Don's favorite aspects of the hobby are laser kits and detailed scenery.

## Don Avila's Carlsbad, East Portal & Zenith Railway

John Armstrong custom designed layout packs a lot of z scale into 32 square feet



Back in the summer of 1978, Division 1 member Don Avila commissioned the late John Armstrong to design a standard four by eight in n scale. Total cost - \$154.10. Not bad in today's dollars, but remember this was almost 40 years ago. Fast forward to 2016. The layout now sports z scale trains manufactured by Micro-Trains, American Z Line (AZL) and Marklin running on DCC with operating ditchlights.

JOHN H. ARMSTRONG  
10214 SOUTHMOOR DRIVE, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND  
File No. 43-11 A 20901

To: DONALD F. AVILA  
P.O. Box 217  
GREENSBURG, OHIO 44232  
Date: 10/6/78

\*STEP 4\* MEMORANDUM:  
Your custom railroad plan package has been completed!  
The charge, based on the actual net area of the railroad as measured from the final plan, is as follows:

Base charge	12.50
area charge <u>32</u> sq. ft.	<u>22.40</u>
(.70 gauge @ <u>20</u> /sq. ft.)	
Complete contouring of scenery (30% of area charge)	<u>6.75</u>
Construction-by-stages charge, if applicable	<u>NS</u>
Total, actual area basis	<u>154.10</u>
Previously paid (thank you!)	<u>75.00</u>
Balance	<u>79.10</u>

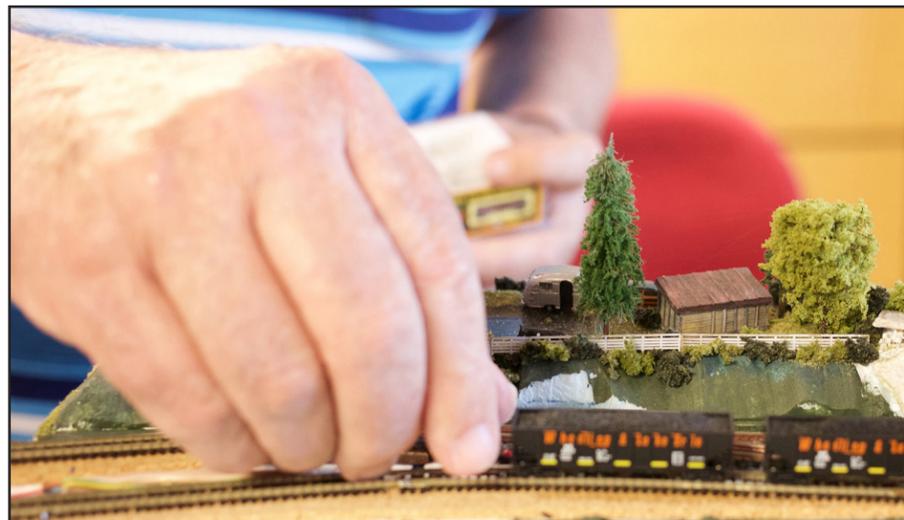
Preliminary print herewith; complete package will be forwarded upon receipt of balance above.  
 Package herewith, 90% of estimate having been remitted previously; please remit any balance shown above.

Remarks or exceptions:  
*Since this job has been delayed more than it should have been, I'm sending the whole package now, without waiting for the balance due.*

John Armstrong 10/14/78  
John H. Armstrong

The original design not only called for n scale, but also a unique "railroad in suspension," according to an article in the April, 1982 issue of *Model Railroader*. This was to allow the CEP & Z to be put "up against the ceiling between operating and building sessions but accessible from all sides when in the lowered position." The layout was also featured in the 1995 *Model Railroad Planning*.

A major part of the hobby that Don and his wife Judy enjoy is attending NMRA conventions and meeting up with friends while running trains on the award winning *Golden Blawhawk & Central City* z scale layout.



Two scratchbuilt bridges and detailed scenery showcase Don's favorite parts of the hobby. (clockwise from left) Don shows how he makes liftout sections of scenery above hidden track. The tiny size of z scale is evident as Don places hopper cars on his layout in front of a highly detailed camping scene. Don places a covered hopper without the benefit of a rerailer. Correspondance dated October, 1978 between Don and John Armstrong.