

Introduction to **LEGO® Trains**

Welcome to the Texas Brick Railroad
– thanks for looking!

Are these trains actual LEGO sets?

Some of them are. LEGO has been making trains since 1966, and still offers complete train sets, track, and a variety of parts.

Some of the trains and buildings you see here came from kits, but many were completely scratch-built. LEGO railfans create new designs all the time. Many of the plans can be found online.

What gauge is this?

The track is a bit wider than O gauge. We call it “L gauge,” for LEGO, but the NMRA has not yet recognized the standard.

Are these battery-operated?

Yes, they are. The controls are infrared, with 8 different channels. LEGO used to make sets with electrified track (and you can still buy used ones), but the modern sets all use plastic track and run on batteries.

Is this for adults or for kids?

Both! LEGO trains are a family hobby. They’re safe to handle – just don’t let the baby eat the small pieces! Unlike conventional model trains, if a LEGO train hits the floor and breaks, you just pull out the instructions and put it back together.

Where can I find LEGO trains?

Check the official LEGO stores and online at lego.com. Sometimes you’ll find a train in the LEGO section at Target, Walmart, or Toys “R” Us.

You can shop for used bricks and track – or for whole sets – on eBay. There is also a site called bricklink.com that is exclusively for the LEGO hobby.

Presented by the



What about the buildings?

Like the trains, some of the buildings in our layout were official LEGO sets, some started as official sets but have been modified, and some are completely original creations.

What does it cost to get started?

Of the sets now available from LEGO, the High-Speed Passenger Train (60051) is the easiest to start with. For \$149.99, you get a complete set with motor, IR controller, AAA battery box, and a loop of track. You just build it and run.

After that, it all depends on your available space, your budget, and your own personal interests! LEGO regularly adds new trains to the lineup and retires old ones. Go to lego.com and search for “train” to see what they have.

How much space does it take?

A circle of 16 pieces of curved track will fit on a 30” diameter table.

Does the track have to be fastened down?

No. Most of our display track is ballasted (attached to baseplates) for appearance and to keep it stable in heavy use, but if you don’t want a permanent layout, the track can go right on the floor – around the Christmas tree, for instance – when you want to run your trains.

Are these models glued?

No. Most LEGO builders prefer not to glue, cut, or paint the pieces. The challenge of creating new models is to build the shape you want without modifying the pieces. That way, we can easily fix or change our models later. (However, professional builders usually use glue when they create permanent displays, especially outdoors!)

How long did it take to build this layout?

All the modules, buildings, and rolling stock are owned by our members. It took a lot of time to prepare beforehand (some of us have been doing this for many years), but only a few hours to set it up here. The layout is never the same from one show to the next!

What about monorail?

The last LEGO monorail set came out in 1994. They're collectible now, but they're still a lot of fun.

About TBRR

We are a statewide group of rail modelers who love working with LEGO. We have no permanent layout . . . we come together at train shows and LEGO events.

Find us at texasbrickrr.com, on Facebook, and at the "Texas Brick Railroad" Google group.

Model and photo courtesy Tony Sava

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Other tips

Be sure to sign up for the LEGO store VIP card – it's free, and even a single train purchase will be enough to earn you credit for your next visit.

Keep your set instructions so you can find them again when you want to modify or rebuild your train.

Where can I learn more?

www.texasbrickrr.com – our own club site, with photos of past shows.

www.brickmodelrailroader.com – a site serving the LEGO train community at all levels, from the casual builder to the veteran scale modeler.

www.texlug.org – the general-interest club for LEGO fans in Texas.

www.lego.com – has plans for over 50 retired train sets! Use the Customer Service link at the bottom, then search for the "City Trains" theme.

www.bricklink.com – a huge "flea market" for LEGO sets and pieces. (There's also lots of LEGO for sale on eBay, but know your seller!)

Many train builders also have photo collections on Flickr. Check out these: bricktrix, gambort, maciej_drwiega, michaelgale, swoofy, savatheaggie, scruffulous, shuppiluliumas, steampoweredbricks.

