

South Bend and Hilltop Railway

This layout is relatively new to the exhibition circuit with its first showing in July 2009. It is not based on any specific prototype or era, but is very much American in nature. This layout has been 3.5 years in the making with construction commencing in December 2006. It has been designed to run both DC & DCC trains to give our club members the greatest flexibility in running their models. The track design is a folded dog-bone with twin mainlines each with 5.1 kms (3.2 miles) of running. Town and country scenes also offer the opportunity for a variety of operational activities.

Constructed on 5 modules, each 1.5 m long, gives the layout a total length of 7.5 m and maximum width of 1.2m. Innovative lightweight construction techniques have been used with aluminium framework and extruded foam used to minimize the weight without compromising the strength. The only plaster used on the layout is in the tunnel portals.

The scenery base is PVA soaked chux wipes, and all the rock work on the layout are made from PVA soaked toilet paper (no kidding!)

As is common in this hobby, a layout is never really finished and we continue to enhance the layout with more detail scenery, working signalling, computer based automation and prototype CTC control.

We hope you enjoy viewing the South Bend and Hilltop Railway