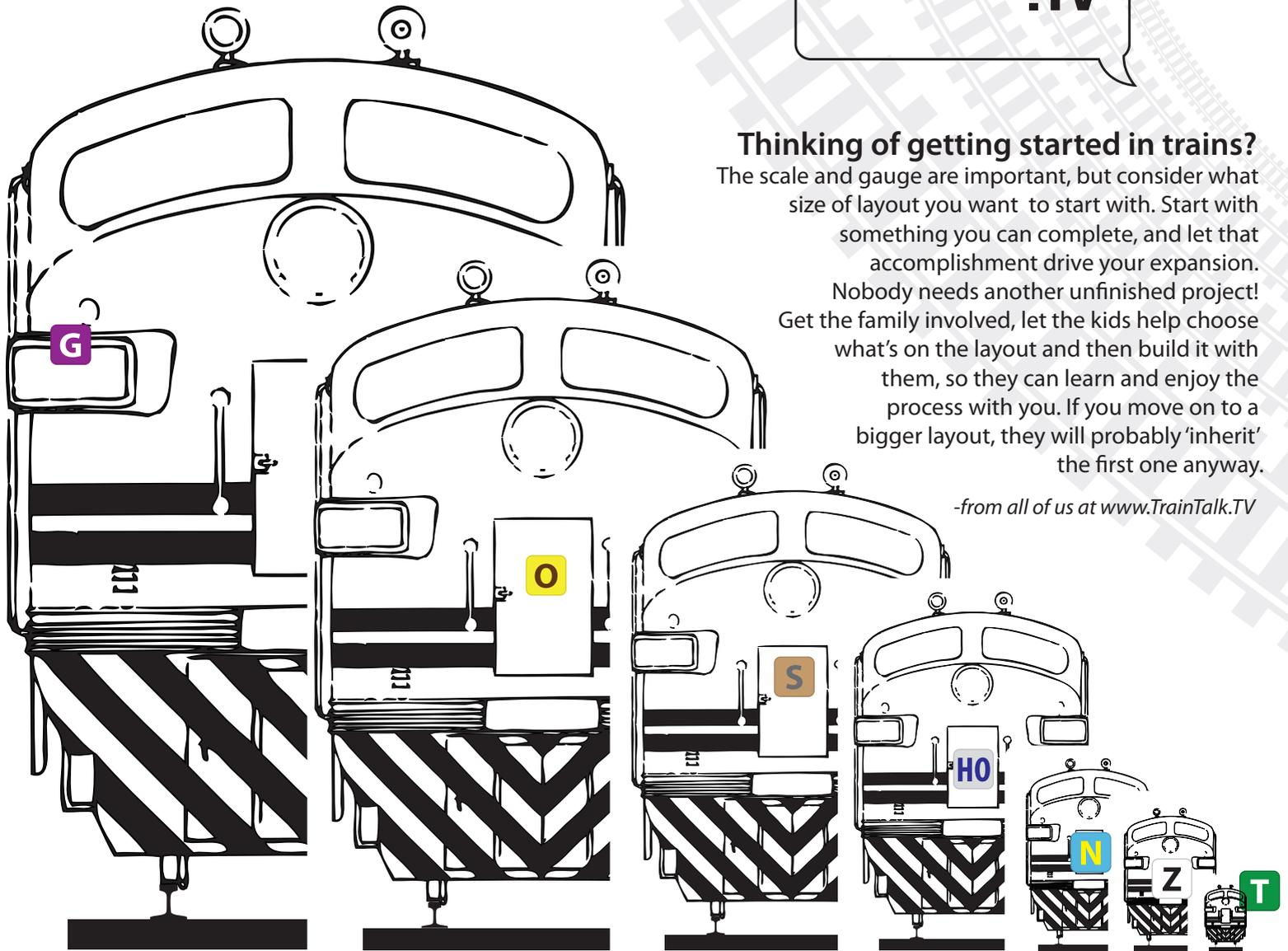


Scale Tales

Popular Model Railroading Scales and Gauges*

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Thinking of getting started in trains?

The scale and gauge are important, but consider what size of layout you want to start with. Start with something you can complete, and let that accomplishment drive your expansion. Nobody needs another unfinished project! Get the family involved, let the kids help choose what's on the layout and then build it with them, so they can learn and enjoy the process with you. If you move on to a bigger layout, they will probably 'inherit' the first one anyway.

-from all of us at www.TrainTalk.TV

In North America, the space between the rails of a real-life "standard gauge" railroad track is 4 feet 8.5 inches. This cross section is the actual size of a piece of 85lb rail that you might find in use on sidings today.

Gauge Page

Popular Model Railroading Scales and Gauges*

	Scale	Train Size	Track Gauge	Size/foot	Min. Radius	Starter** Set ~ \$	Minimal Layout
T	1:450	3/4" h 1/2" w	3.0mm	0.55mm	120mm	\$200	11" x 17"
Z	1:220	3/4" h 1/2" w	6.52mm	1.38mm	145mm	\$300	18" x 24"
N	1:160	1.0" h 5/8" w	8.97mm	2.0mm	192mm	\$100	24" x 36"
HO	1:87	2.0" h 1.5" w	16.5mm	3.5mm	15"	\$100	36" x 48"
S	1:64	2 3/4" h 2.0" w	22.4mm	3/16"	19"	\$350	42" x 60"
O	1:48	4.0" h 2.5" w	1.25"	1/4"	31"	\$200	48" x 72"
G	1:22.5	8.0" h 5.0" w	1.75"	1/2"	24"	\$300	36" x 36"

All cross sections are actual size

*Scale is the proportion of the model to the real thing, Gauge is the distance between the rails.

**Est. Sets usually include a train, power supply & track loop. Plan to double it and get extra track/structures/etc.

Is this all the Scales?

Not by a long shot! These are the most common only. 'TT' is a very common scale in England, and there are lots of Narrow Gauge scales modelled as well.

More info?
Check out the
Gauge Page at...

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The video
Podcast about
'All Things Railroad!'