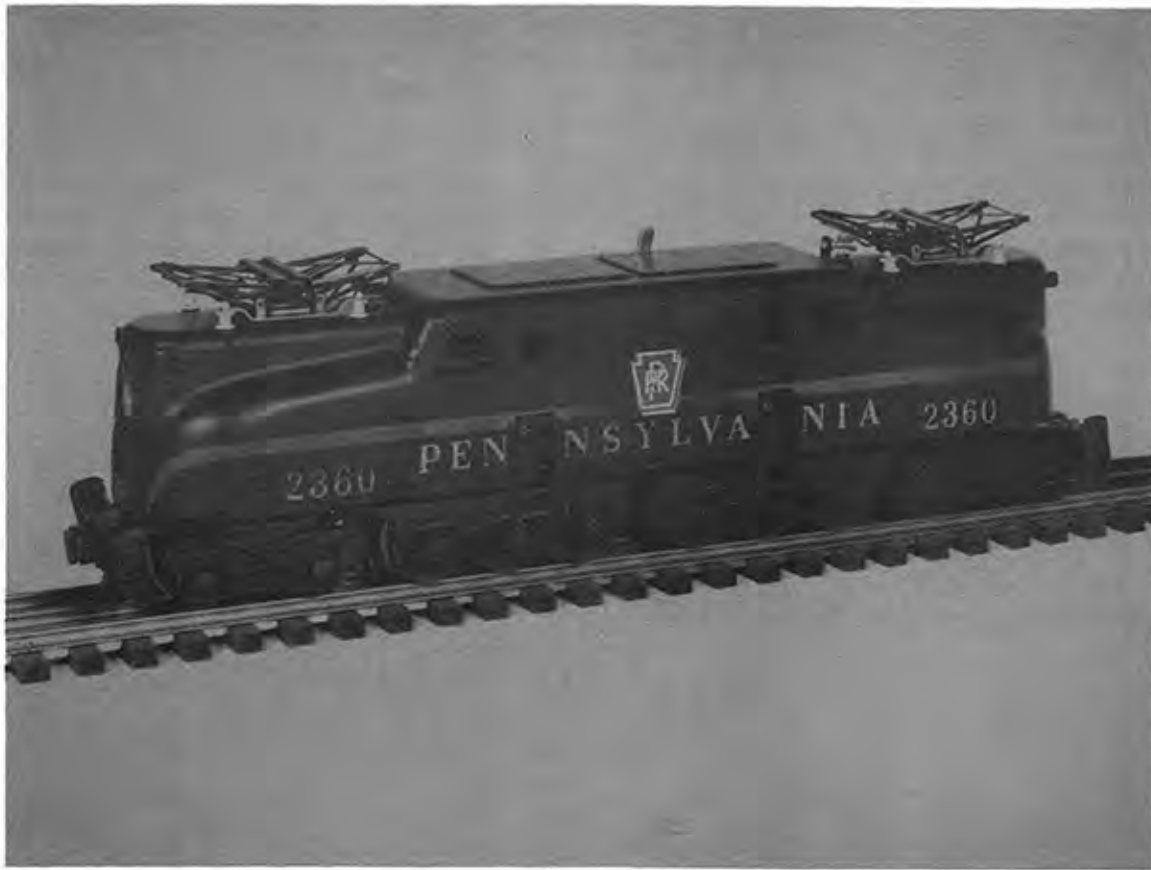


THE ATLANTIC DIVISION EXPRESS



SPRING 1989

**TRAIN COLLECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

ATLANTIC DIVISION EXPRESS

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Spring, 1989

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Atlantic Division - Train Collectors Association
2933 N. Wales Rd., Norristown, PA 19401

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AN APOLOGY

Don't worry! Your president, Ed Pinsky, has not been negligent of his duties. About a month ago he did send me a president's column. However, as I am wont to do, I have misplaced it. In order to get this issue of the AD Express to the printer in expeditious fashion (more or less !), I have decided to publish without it. Your Editor, Charlie Weber.

HOUSES, HOUSES, HOUSES

By Philip O. Ritter

Atlantic Division Display at the November 1988 Fall Meet

It is well known in the real housing market, and proven by the display of toy train layout houses at our Fall Meet, that the appeal of house styles is as diverse as the people who select them. Our six-tiered display shelves this time were full of the colorful little houses that make the tracks and landscaping of a train layout look like a true miniature village. The 145 buildings came from many layouts and shelf collections of our Division membership and represented only a small sampling of the handsome homes we have seen on visits and at train meets. They ranged in size from HO scale (1:87) to Standard gauge (1:27), with most of the examples in O Gauge (1:45) or S Gauge (1:64) scale. The houses in our display were made of paper, plastic or plaster; cardboard, composition or wood; or enameled, lithographed or laquered metals. Some were scaled-detailed with very realistic exteriors, others were the fanciful artistic expressions that catch the eye in a Christmas Putz. Most of the buildings were true "tinplate", mass produced ready built models like LIONEL or simple construction kits like SHOENHUT and SKYLINE products.

LIONEL production was well represented with 8 different #184 bungalows, 6 different #191 villas with porches, and a white #189 villa with peaked peacock roof and 4 dormers, (photo 7, shelves D&E). One of the #191 villas was the earlier version with no dormers, (photo 7C, left). Two of the bungalows were with original, but differently labeled boxes. Ron Morris treated us to a display of two rarely seen and very impressive boxed sets of LIONEL houses from the late 1920s, (photos 1&2). The #192 set, labeled "LIONEL MANOR", contains 2 lithographed bungalows, a #189 white villa with gray roof and dormers and a crackle red #191 villa with green roof and railings, white windows and a brick chimney. The #186 set, labeled "LIONELVILLE", contains five lithographed #184 bungalows (2 red roof and 2 green roof), set in a colorful cardboard insert depicting an electric style passenger train coming around the curve to a wooded suburban setting.



"LIONEL MANOR" SET #192
PHOTO 1



"LIONELVILLE" BUNGALOW SET #186
PHOTO 2

The familiar LIONEL houses of the 1920s and 30s, which were sold for O gauge and Standard gauge layouts, are really better scaled to the post war S gauge trains. LIONEL may have missed a good market after WW2 by not continuing their metal house production for the S gaugers, but maybe they did not want to encourage American Flyer's new venture in the smaller size. For more specific information on LIONEL houses, see Ron Morris' thorough article in the Winter 1975 TCA Quarterly (Vol.22, #1).

The largest group of similar buildings was a sampling of 32 Japanese plaster composition houses, stations, stores and farm buildings, (photos 7-10, shelf B), from Phil Ritter's collection. These are the type you get a few of for the layout's background, then a few more with interesting variations, then some to upgrade, and soon find that you have started another collection. Just when you are becoming pleased with this collection of different styles, sizes and colors on your own shelves and think that there must not be many more to find, you learn of another collector with several times as many who is still searching for the end of the Japanese plaster rainbow. It is believed that there are over 125 distinctly different variations of these buildings from the 1930s. Basic differences other than color combinations, include rectangular or round lighting holes in the back or bottom, thin or thick wall construction, cardboard, decal or rubber stamped signboards, and the use of some of the same building names on different shapes. Displayed at the meet were several styles of houses, Railroad and Baggage stations, Telegraph offices, gas stations, banks, theaters, stores, a church, farm shed and silo, and a switching tower. These are sometimes seen in their flimsy boxed sets of two to eight buildings with and without composition O and Standard gauge size railroad figures. An interesting and illustrated article, "More Japanese Composition Buildings", by John L. Trowill is in the January 1987 TCA Quarterly (Vol.33, #1). John Newbrough has also gathered some information on them in his "Who Done It" articles in the TCA Quarterlies of July 1986 (Vol.32, #4) and April 1987 (Vol.33, #2). The latter article reports the identification of two different manufacturers in Japan, TRICO and ESANBE. Who knows what other buildings were made, which goes with which set and how to date the various styles?



1943 MEGOW HO RAILROAD BUILDINGS
PHOTO 3



DILCO O GAUGE PRINTED & STUCCO HOUSES
PHOTO 4

Layout houses of cardboard and wood probably constitute the broadest grouping and encompass most of the toy house assembly kits. Notable exceptions to this generality are the lithographed metal H&H "Twinkletown" houses and the MARX bend-to-shape buildings which were not on display. The primary cardboard houses displayed were those of SKYLINE, MEGOW, BUILT RITE and DILCO. There were several of the 1930s SKYLINE wood reinforced O scale buildings and several of the simplified "Tank Town" set cardboard buildings of the 1940s, (photos 9&10, shelf E), from Ritter's collection. The simplest of the SKYLINE houses was present in both of its basic flat color variations. Bill Stinson displayed three beautifully detailed MEGOW HO scale railroad buildings which he assembled in 1943. (That's really planning ahead for our Meet displays.) To illustrate the change in the toy housing market, Bill put beside his passenger and freight stations and interlocking tower, an original MEGOW advertising sheet, showing the three kits at the affordable price of 25¢ each, (photo 3). Phil supplemented these with three MEGOW HO houses of sturdy cardboard with gloss finish, (photo 9D, right side). Of even sturdier cardboard construction, are the DILCO O gauge size assembly kits and ready-builts, (photo 4). In the display, were two of the kit houses and a church with lithographed paper sides. There was also a white sand finish (stucco) house and separate garage of the built up style (photo 9C, left). These have the bottom holes for lights and colored tissue paper window panes to look great in night scenes.

The five BUILT-RITE houses along the top self were the largest of the cardboard kit buildings displayed. A community of these, (photos 5&6), would look good with Standard Gauge trains. These 1930s-1940s, tab-together buildings by the Warren Paper Products Co. of Lafayette, Indiana, have brick, stone or stucco pattern, printed paper on cardboard exteriors and a tan or green interior depending on their age. The author knows of 10 different large BUILT-RITE house styles and a matching private garage. There are also three Railroad stations and a RR tunnel, two airports, a service station and a commercial garage, plus two army forts and an outpost, trench and set of soldiers of this make and scale. These buildings all came separately and some came in large sets with many matching accessories such as signal bridge, signs, trucks, baggage and army vehicles. This is all in addition to the BUILT-RITE miniature village, farm, and city sets of which we so often see parts among HO accessories.



BUILT-RITE STUCCO HOUSES, KITS #9&11
PHOTO 5



BUILT-RITE BRICK GARAGE #7 & HOUSE #8
PHOTO 6

Another almost endless toy building type was represented on the shelves by 9 Japanese paper "snowflake" houses, (photos 7&8, shelf C). These are usually associated with Christmas snow scenes and used to be available at the 5 & 10 stores for 5 and 10¢. The range of styles of these buildings indicate that they were made over a long period of time and in many countries. A recent article, "Under the Christmas Tree" by Bob Brenner in the December 1988 *Antique Toy World*, page 8, describes the general transition of the detail in these S gauge size houses from those with railings and bushes of before WW2 to the more simplified construction afterwards. There were also three similar size paper houses of rustic style and tan colored, sand finish walls of possible South American or East European make, (photo 8E). Two of these had a characteristic feature representing a missing stucco patch on the front wall with red brick showing through. It would be fun to identify the origin and age of these distinctive little houses.



A- TOY TOWN CARDBOARD BUILDINGS (HO)
 B- JAPANESE PLASTER BUILDINGS (S)
 C- JAPANESE SNOWFLAKE HOUSES (S)
 D- LIONEL #184 BUNGALOWS
 E- LIONEL #191 VILLAS
 PHOTO 7



CARDBOARD "TOY TOWN" VILLAGE SET
 JAPANESE PLASTER VARIATIONS
 ADDITIONAL PAPER SNOWFLAKE HOUSES
 3 SAVINGS BANK HOUSES & 2 DILCO
 3 RUSTIC PAPER HOUSES (S)
 PHOTO 8

Also of Standard Gauge size, were the two home crafted wooden houses of the 1920s, (photo 10T, center), reminiscent of the early SHOENHUT station style. Although not production "Tinplate", these were included to illustrate the creativity found among most home layout builders, especially during wartime or depression shortages. Two of the production SHOENHUT wooden kit houses shown, (photo 10A, right), were from the early 1930s "Hollywood Home Builder" series. The full set includes five different houses named: "Washington", "Jefferson", "Adams", "Madison" and "Munroe". These are sometimes seen with knock-out holes in the rear roof panel to accommodate a tapered series lamp from the bottom string of a Christmas tree. Their earlier O Gauge style with shingled roofs from the teens and 20s was represented by a farm house and a very scarce barn, (photo 10A, center). Several similar construction, but smaller panel-assembly buildings from the SHOENHUT (S Gauge) "Build-a-Village" set were displayed as well, (photos 9&10, shelf C). This full set includes a house with dormered roof, school, church, RR station, and freight station. There are enough different variations (5 houses, 8 stores, garage, farm buildings) of the wooden SHOENHUT O Gauge structures with their metal tack-on windows and doors, to make a nice lighted village scene along with the familiar LIONEL metal houses.

A smaller wooden set of 13 more modern HO size buildings was shown by Norm Schmidt. These are of solid wood with colorfully printed cardboard walls wrapped around and attached in the rear. They have cardboard, shingle pattern roofs with wooden chimneys, (photo 10D). Can anyone help us identify the maker and specific age of this set? They appear to be of the 1940s to 50s. Another similar size set of all cardboard construction "Toy Town" buildings was displayed on the upper shelf for comparison, (photos 7&8, shelf A). Each of these buildings are a colorfully lithographed strip of cardboard folded to make four walls with tabs up through the roof to hold its shape. The large tabs look almost like small dormers. This set is known to have come with a card table sized paper town plot with green lawn, gray streets and each building's location profiled and labeled, (not much room for a child's creativity). Who knows what manufacturer made the "Toy Town" products and when?



CANDY HOUSES, DILCO, MEGOW, SKYLINE
PHOTO 9



HEMOCRAFT, SHOENHUT O & S, MAGIC MILL
PHOTO 10

In addition to the LIONEL houses described earlier, there were two other styles of metal buildings displayed. One was the nicely lithographed set of small metal candy container stores, church and houses from the teens, (photo 9A, left). These reportedly were made by MARX and had glass inserts to hold the candies, but the author has never seen any verification of this. The set contains three peaked roof buildings: a red brick school dated 1914, a green clapboard house with chimney, and a white stone church with cross at the peak; five flat roof buildings: a red brick "Engine House #23", a stone "Drug Store" dated 1914, a red brick "Toys and Confectionery" store, a stone "Princess Theater", and a red brick "City Garage"; and one square shaped house which was not in the group shown. The prevalence of these antique store found, HO size buildings is partly due to the discovery of an unused new stock of most of the shapes about 6 or 8 years ago. Another interesting style of sturdy metal houses that might look good a in layout, are the 2 1/4" X 3 3/4" enameled steel savings banks, (photo 8D, left), shown by Ron Morris. These were made as promotional items before the depression by the BANKERS THRIFT CORP. of Chicago, and usually have riveted metal labels on the edge of the base with the name of the specific savings bank who distributed them. The author has several with different bank names and different wall and roof color combinations. The window and door frames are separate metal inserts and the coin slot with retaining fingers is in a key-removable base plate. Besides the distinctive shape of these houses, they are usually identified by the metal label on the opposite of the base which says, "Save For a Home".

Some additional, special houses were seen at the end of our shelves. John Bayne exhibited one of the little, no-chimney LIONEL #092 signal houses of 1923-27. A modification of this relatively uncommon building was also produced in 1927-39 as the top of the #438 switch tower. Either way, this makes a nice addition to a pre-war @ Gauge layout. George Kane brought a plastic "Magic Mill" with an electric water pump which realistically drives a large wheel beside the mill house, (photo 10C, right),. To bring us back to current reality, George also slipped two modern Plasticville houses on the bottom shelf. As a grand example of current production, Bob Hafner assembled a whole mountain village of lighted ceramic, large scale houses on the end of the stage, (photos 11&12). These have a very pleasing Victorian snow village appearance and a wide diversity of building style. How many garden layouts will we see develop around these weather resistant structures?



MOUNTAIN VILLAGE DISPLAY OF LARGE SCALE CERAMIC HOUSES
PHOTOS 11 & 12

This Atlantic Division meet display further illustrates the rich diversity of the toy train collecting hobby. There are all sorts of opportunities for special sub-collections of the accessories as well as of the trains themselves. Any of us can quickly recall many other toy train layout houses or building sets which would have nicely added to the display by showing further variations of the described styles or illustrate an overlooked type or manufacturer. For instance we saw none of the metal SKYLINE, H & H, or MARX houses, nor any of the great German products, nor were there any of the BUILD E-2, STANLO, LINCOLN LOG, stone ANCHOR block or rubber brick construction set houses. We will leave it to our members attending the next Atlantic Division meet to surprise us with some collecting gems illustrating that day's specialty. Look for the theme in the next meet notice.



The fun is in collecting and the pride is in display.

Just Like Lionel

CWW From Joe Lehman

Although I have seen lots of pictures of Lionel's manufacturing operations over the years, none of them made any special impression except the huge presses. I could see that stamping and bending of the sheet steel with these machines would be "a piece of cake". However, the production of late pre-war and postwar car wheels and postwar truck side frames sounded impossible and intrigued me. I just couldn't imagine pressing metal powder with enough force to bond the metal atoms together and produce an item so hard and with so much wear resistance as Lionel's wheels. Well, Joe Lehman represents the Atlas Pressed Metals Co. who do just that, in a manner that is just like Lionel's. He gave me an advertising brochure, the center of which is reproduced on the next two pages, which very nicely explains the process. I thought it might be of some interest to you.

Help ! Help !

HELP WANTED

Help ! Help !

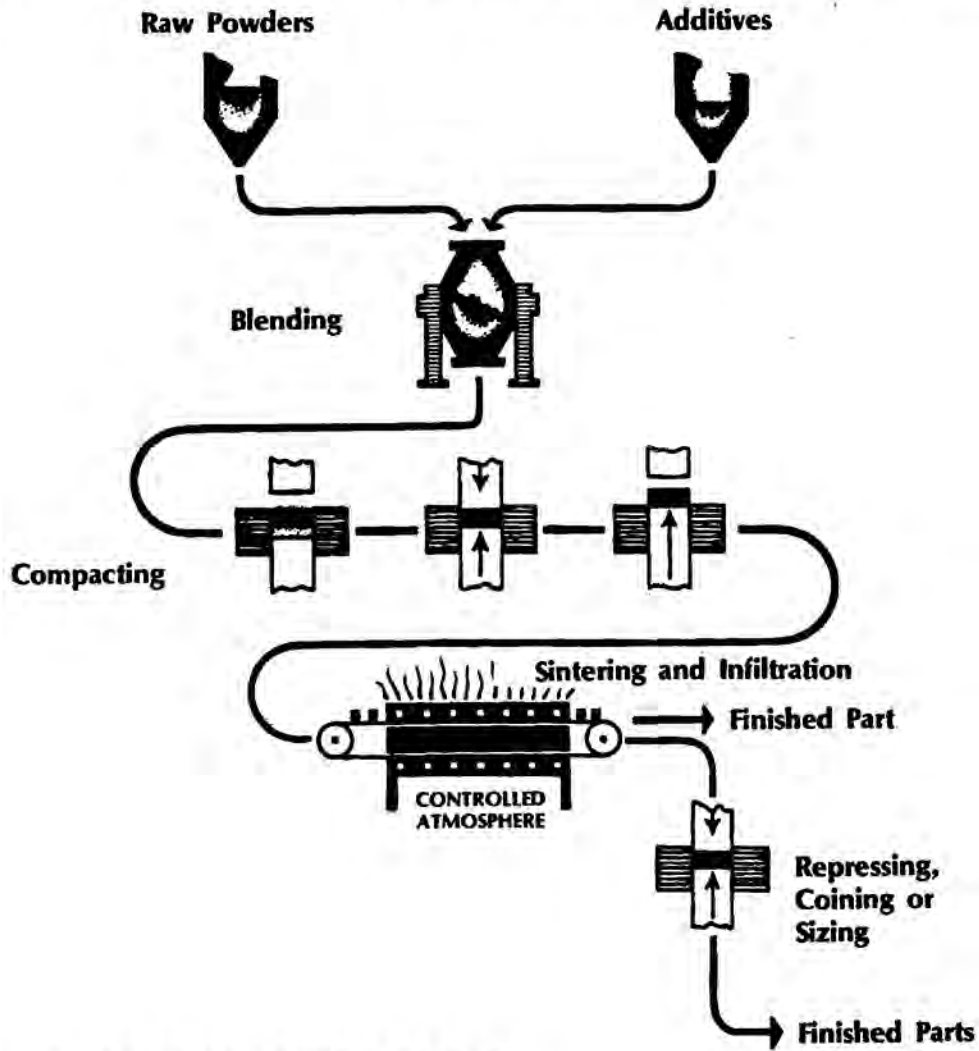
HBAC experience. The TCA museum is in dire need of someone with this experience. This person is needed to fill a hole in the museum committee. We are working on completion of the museum expansion to be finalized in the fall - winter of 1989-1990. If interested, please call George Donze, 215-355-8790. There is no monetary remuneration, just self satisfaction and fun.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RUN A TROLLEY CAR AT THE CONVENTION ?

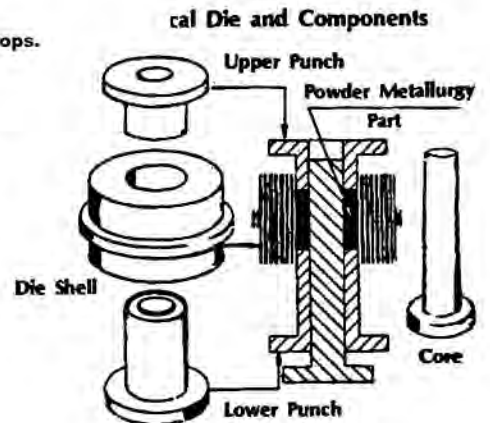
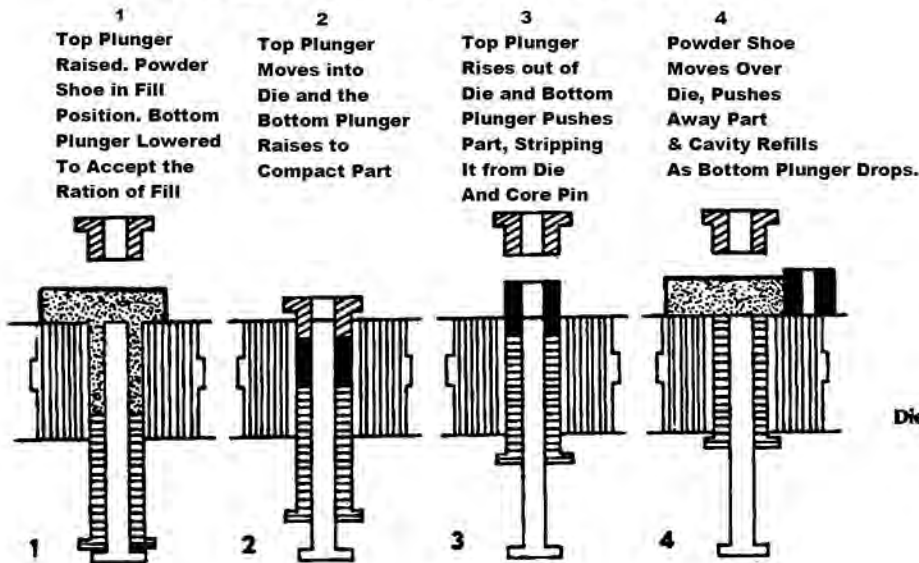
Jim Boylan (81-16504) and friends are bringing an 0 gauge modular trolley and elevated layout to the National Convention at Valley Forge, June 22 - 25. He is looking for anyone who wants to help run the cars, lend more equipment to run on the layout, bring modules to connect with it, help with the set up, transportation, and storage, or just want to watch it run. Please call Jim at 215-SK7-3793 (Pennel) or, in Phila., 215-H04-6334.

Thanks in advance.

THE POWDER METALLURGY PROCESS



STEPS IN OPERATING CYCLE OF MOLDING TOOLS

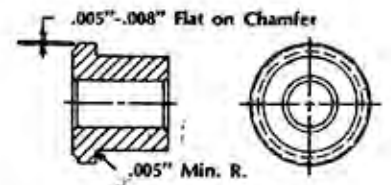


BASIC RULES FOR DESIGNING POWDER METALLURGY PARTS:

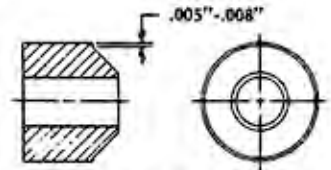
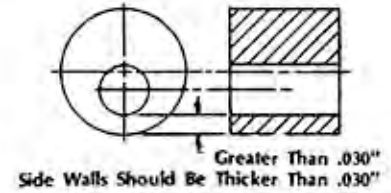
1. The shape of the part must permit ejection from the die.
2. The shape of the part should be such that powder is not required to flow into thin walls, narrow splines, or sharp corners.
3. The shape of the part should permit construction of strong tooling.
4. The length of a thin-wall cylinder should not be more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the diameter of the part.
5. The part should be designed with as few levels (diameters) and axial variations as possible.
6. Take advantage of the fact that forms can be produced by powder metallurgy which are impossible or impractical to obtain by other methods.



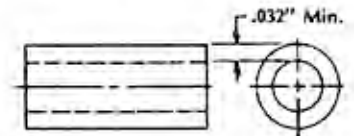
preferred design



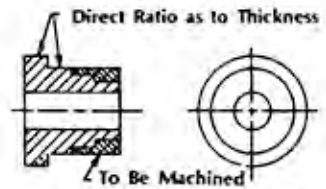
Reverse Taper Cannot Be Molded, Can Be Machined



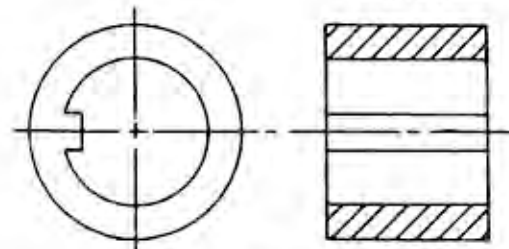
Flats Eliminate Sharp Edges on Tools and Strengthen Die



Length Should Not Be Greater Than $2\frac{1}{2}$ Times the Diameter



Lower Strength Results if All Stepped Diameters Are Molded



By Nicholas B. Ladd

Why does it always rain or snow when I visit the toy fair? This year was no different when I took the bus to the Big Apple. The miserable almost convinced me to cancel, but I had too many appointments to do that. The fair is held at a number of sites in New York City. The center of the fair is at 200 Fifth Avenue and at 1107 Broadway. However, a major new site is the Javits Convention Center where 800 firms from around the world were set up. If you think the York meet is big, try the toy fair on for size! If you were a toy buyer you would need a week to see it all. As I was only interested in trains I spent a day and still missed a few.

My first stop was at Bachmann to see their new line of "Big Haulers". Last year's set was quickly snapped up by value oriented operators, and as a result Bachmann has really expanded their G gauge line. They offer four new sets, all track powered. The detail is excellent considering the price. The most exciting was the "Royal Blue" passenger set lettered "New York, Philadelphia, and Washington". The 4-6-0 loco is decorated in cobalt blue, silver and gold, as are the two turn of the century passenger cars. The interiors are fully detailed and are lighted by battery power, have a clerestory roof, and a drum head on the observation car which is also illuminated. The loco has an operating headlight, smoke, and speed synchronized sound. The cars have knuckle couplers and the set is complete with track and transformer. The list retail is \$315, but I am sure that you will see this set on sale for far less.

All of the Bachmann sets will be advertised on TV and none of them look or act cheap. They run well and they sound great! This line is probably the best value in the G scale market. There are seven separate engines and seven freight cars available for the operator. In addition they offer two combines and a few accessories. Be sure to look this line over. It was the talk of the toy fair.

Now it was time to visit old friends at Reeves International. I heard they had tied up the Paya line, and I was right. The "Linea Historica Paya" takes your breath away. Paya opened up their vaults and have reproduced many of their prewar tin toys and trains. The lithography was sensational as are the trains. For your collecting pleasure they offer four locomotives (3 steam and 1 electric) and two versions of the Union Pacific "City of Portland". There are 12 different passenger cars and 6 freights. This O gauge offering is like going back in time. Here are the fabulous tin trains made before the war - now available in 1989! Purist collectors may scoff, but as far as I am concerned this offering is not to be ignored. The quality is there and the prices are not outlandish. All the pieces are marked as reproductions and I am told that Paya is using pure casting materials which will not deteriorate as some of their original products did. This is a WOW line and needs to be seen to be enjoyed. (ED Note: At a recent Westover meet the Paya U.P. sets were being offered. Bob Sell and I looked at them and agree with Nick's evaluation.)

I stopped to see Maury Kline for lunch. Over a half of a roast beef sandwich, I was allowed to play with his new line. MDK has added a number of items for this year including a three unit Budd RDC set (ex Marx) and the excellent former Marx crane car and boom car. These work cars are part of a beautiful PRR work train. Also

there is a stylish searchlight car that appears to be of part Marx and of part Kusan/Williams heritage. Also appearing to be of this heritage is an army train. This set features a huge cannon car, a helicopter car, a rocket car, an ammunition car with crates and an Alco loco with matching cabooses. Available for separate sale is an army searchlight car and a radar tracking car. The entire lashup is very interesting except for the helicopter which is too much of a toy to be included in this handsome offering.

MDK is also showing another diesel switcher - an S-2 in two road names with matching cabooses. The Classics return to the line and the lettering on these cars is outstanding. This year the featured boxcars are an M.K.T. "Katy" and a Sante Fe "El Capitan". Lots of ore cars and hoppers are in the line and the MP-15 is now available in 7 road names with flat black power trucks, thank you! Quite a choice! This line is an excellent alternative to Lionel and the price should prove popular to operators and to first time train buyers. Oh yes, MDK seems to have solved their coupler problem. All of the couplers have a more rigid shank and this improvement alone makes the line a great buy.

My friends at Kalamazoo were wild about their new Boston and Maine (or Sante Fe) 4-4-0 engine. I can see why. It is a sleek and well designed loco which is needed to flesh out the western oriented Kalamazoo line. This locomotive is accompanied by some well detailed passenger cars including a combine, parlor car, coach and observation. The set is a looker and should prove popular. Also new this year are the 0-4-0 and 0-6-0 switchers. They are available in a variety of road names and are well proportioned. This is a quality line with excellent motors that test out better than those used by LGB. This is also an expensive line when compared to Lionel and Bachmann, but considering the quality and the engineering it is worth it.

The big news at Kalamazoo is a sensational battery operated sound system which is available factory installed or can be retrofitted to previous production. Small magnets placed along the tracks activate the sound effects. The entire package is a wonder of engineering and must be heard to be appreciated.

John Hante was waiting for me at Lionel. The line is perhaps the best offered since 1970 when Lionel was reborn. In fact, it really is better than any line offered by Lionel since the mid 1950s.

The traditional line really is just that. There are six sets this year - 5 freight and a bright AMTRACK set. Two of these sets feature die cast locomotives. Returning this year after a long absence is the 2-6-4 (former #2037) pulling an eight wheel tender (former# 2466). Available in NYC black or UP gray, this loco is a much needed addition to the traditional line. The SD-18s are painted for the Union Pacific and New Haven this year and are truly beautiful. Lionel is touting a new car truck. Gone is the Symington model and with it the uncoupling problem that Lionel had not corrected despite many complaints. Instead, we will see an ASF truck with "Strong Arm" couplers that mean "no more trains left at the station". Sounds great! I hope it works.

High lights include a C.& N.W. boxcar with E.T.D. That is the caboose replacement blinking light that attaches to the coupler of the last car of the train. Also, the short streamliners are available in NYC two tone gray this year. They look great with the 2-6-4 mentioned above. There is also a two door baggage car available for this set as well as last year's PRR set.

In G gauge, Lionel continues to expand the line with a "North Pole Express" Christmas train and the atlantics lettered for Chessie or for the Great Northern. Both were show stoppers. (Editor's Opinion: YUCBB !! Why didn't those turkeys make this beautiful loco lettered and numbered for PRR ?) Lionel's new G gauge gang car puts LGB to shame. It is fabulous and they will sell thousands. Lots of new freight cars are in the line, but the wowser car of all of the NYC extended searchlight. THIS IS A MUST BUY.

Rail scope continues in 1989 with no let up. It has been featured on many TV shows recently and Lionel has a tiger by the tail with this product. MOVE OVER LGB. Your market share is slipping.

Lionel's collector line was shown at York so I will not comment on it except for one new addition. The scale 0-6-0 switcher is now available. This B-6 PRR loco has really been updated. First, there is a new electronic sound system in the tender that is the best I have heard yet. Wait until you hear the bell and the lonely whistle! It is so real it's uncanny. Secondly, there is smoke and steam chest steam and a matching work caboose - the one with the die cast frame. It also has an operating smoke stack. Quite a set for the top of the line collector.

Lionel is offering a three car 381E State Set this season and a reissue of the #126 station in cream and green. Neither was generating much interest when I was there. I guess state sets have been done to death and this version at \$2000 COST was a big pill to swallow. I am sure they will sell, but the real excitement was in the upgraded traditional line and the G gauge selections. Lionel is on a roll where it counts. Their tracks are really back in 1989.

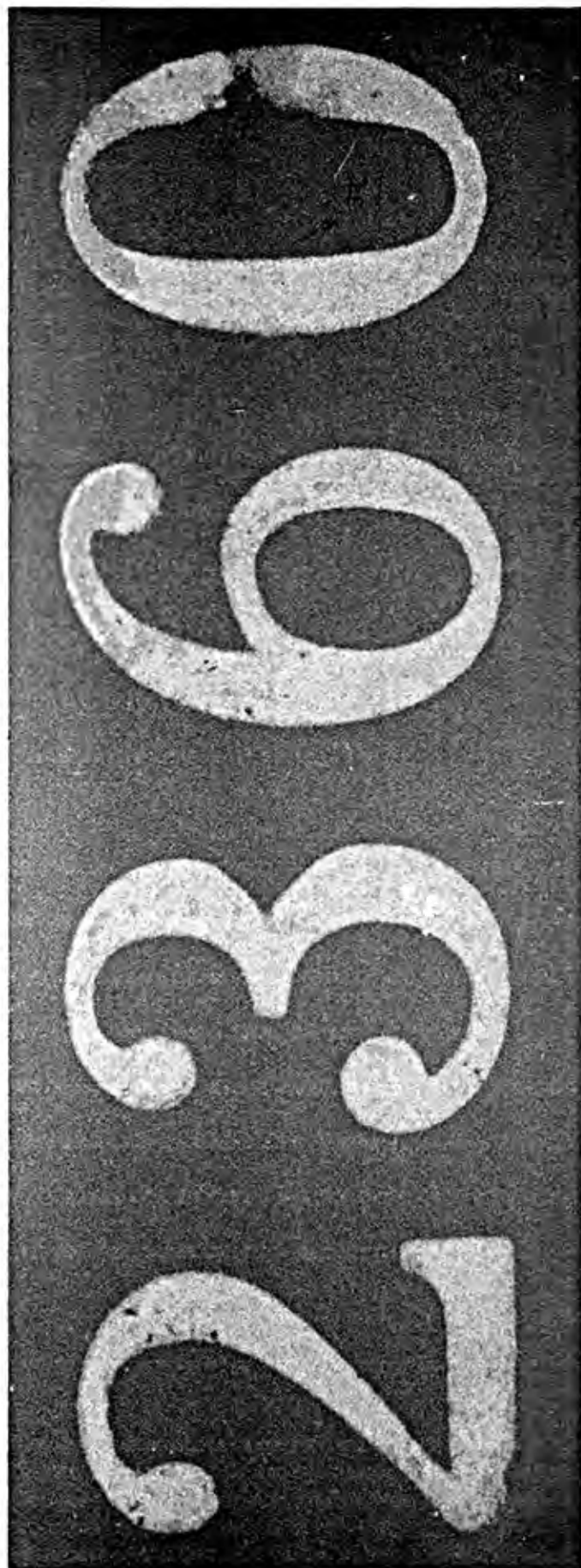
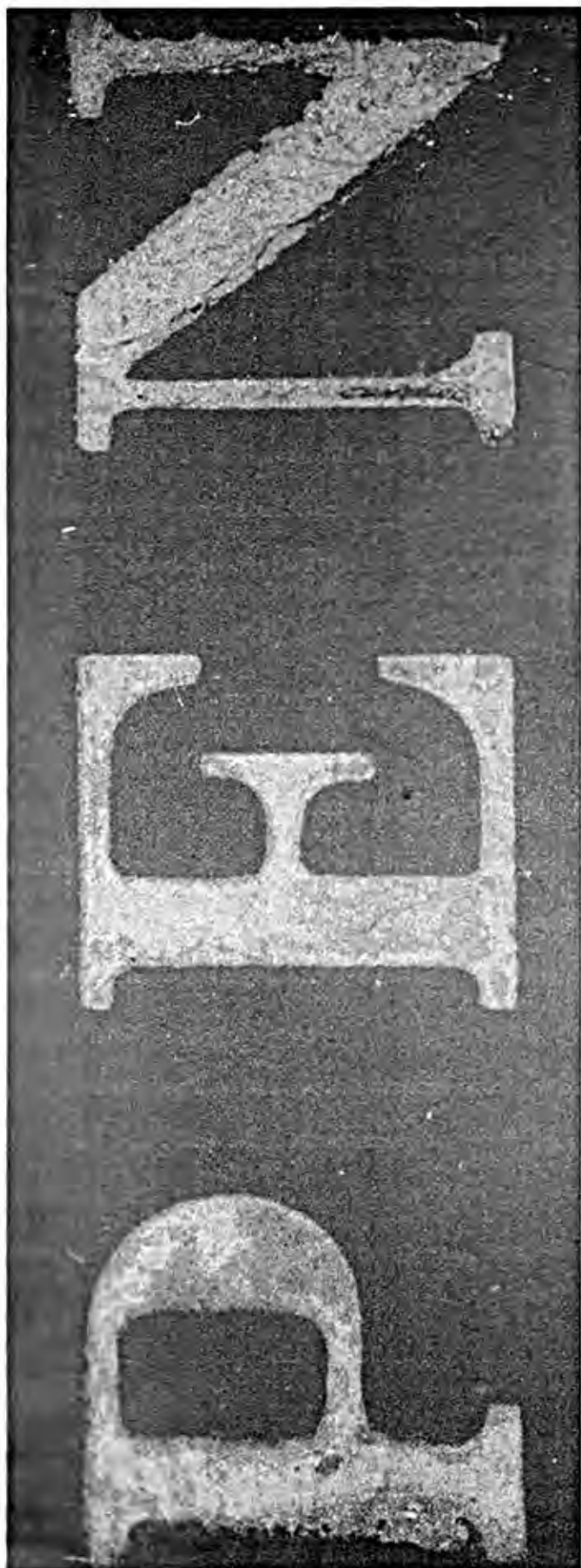
I visited many other lines and everyone is really into G gauge. There are so many firms that I am afraid the market may be saturated soon with too many offerings. LGB continues to concentrate on European prototypes at fantastically high prices. I predict problems for this fine line now that there is so much competition and so many American style trains available at very reasonable prices.

Playmobil has an excellent line of pre-school G gauge trains that are well made and reasonable for the collector to be. Mantua produces about the best R-T-R HO trains in the market; Bachmann has the best HO set packaging; and Life-Like has the best deals. REA G gauge is so good that you must be a gourmet to appreciate their products. Marklin is Marklin and they are unchallenged in their field, but I wonder when they will give us more American prototypes? We are mighty tired of Sante Fe and the Southern Pacific.

In all, the toy fair was buzzing about lots of new toys. NINTENDO games were on everyone's shopping list this year, and so was BARBIE and her friends, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Now, if someone can just get these items on board a train we'll really have something !!

A QUESTION FOR YOU LIONEL POSTWAR COLLECTORS

Ralph Carver owns the Lionel #2360 GG-I shown on the front cover. He knows that the decal on the side is a replacement and the stripe is original. The question deals with the lettering. On the next page are closeups of this lettering. It appears that it is overstamped. The lighter portions are faded gold, just like the stripes, whereas the darker portions are a much darker orangish gold. Is this normal or not? Who can help?



A LIONEL BELL SET ?

By CWW

At the most recent Atlantic Division Mini Meet, I purchased another issue of The Lionel Magazine for my collection (Vol. 1, No. 5, Summer, 1931). While reading this acquisition, I encountered a couple of items of possible interest.

To the right is shown an ad for a "Bell Set". I have never seen nor heard of such an item being produced by Lionel. As far as can be seen in the picture, it appears that the mechanism from a #69/069 signal was packaged along with a pushbutton and other periphery. The fact that it is shown in a box that is typical of Lionel of the period makes me think that it was actually produced and sold. Can anyone give us any information what-so-ever? Was it actually sold? Are there any still in existence? If so, what is the number?

Also in this issue of The Lionel Magazine is a story regarding Lionel trains and a burglar in England. The story is cute and the headline gave me a chuckle, so I am reproducing it here.

How Lionel Trains Saved Family Jewels

WE'VE heard of Lionel Trains doing a lot of things, but this is a new one. One of our readers sends us a cartoon from the London "Punch," which is a magazine published in England.

As you can see, the thief, who was after the family jewels, came across a set of Lionel Trains that had been left on the floor by the children that night, and became so interested in playing with the trains that he forgot all about the jewels and silverware.

Someone telephoned the police and when they arrived, the thief was still playing with the trains. Everyone was so impressed by this that they released the prisoner, after he had promised not to enter houses again in the middle of the night.

SPECIAL!
\$1.50 Bell Sets
50c



We have only a few dozen of these, and offer them to our magazine readers at a special price.

There is a bell, push button, and generous length of electric cord, with complete instructions (which are very simple) for its use.

You can have a lot of fun with this bell set, in connection with your Lionel Railroad, in your club quarters, or in your cellar. Push the button and the bell rings in the next room, or upstairs. Great stuff!

Send for YOUR set right now! Lionel Corp., 15 East 26th St., New York City.

