N-Circle Railroad Updates – Detailed Table of Contents

Overview of the N-Circle Railroad Series

An overview of the plans for the development of the N-Circle Railroad N-scale layout.

N-Circle Railroad Layout Diagram and Scenery Plan

A track plan for the layout with the major scenery components.

Overview Photos

A series of photos showing the entire layout, which will be updated as sections of the layout scenery are updated.

Index of Structure and Scenery Details Kits

A list of the structure and scenery kits described in the N-Circle Updates, including kit name, manufacturer and part number when available. This hopefully will be helpful to anyone who wants to try one of these kits themselves.

Index of Vehicles Kits

A list of the vehicle kits described in the N-Circle Updates, including kit name, manufacturer and part number when available. Again, a reference for anyone looking to build one of these vehicles.

Index of Micro Scenes

A list of the Micro Scenes developed for the N-Circle layout, referenced to the N-Circle Update where it is described. This may be helpful to anyone looking for ideas of how to build a particular modeling scene.

Index of Modeling Tips

A list of the modeling tips and techniques used in the N-Circle Update report projects, referenced to the reports where they were discussed. This may be helpful to anyone looking for ideas of how to approach a modeling task.

Initial Release – January 23, 2020

- Introduction of the new T-Trak Modules with Kato UniTrack for the N-Circle Railroad
- A few introductory photos of the layout

Inaugural Run-By – August 11, 2020

- A YouTube video of a 1980s Central Vermont freight train

Update 1 – Re-Introductions – August 13, 2020

- Introduction of the four Modelling Period and Location Scenarios of the N-Circle Railroad
- Photo Overview of the Areas of the Layout

Update 2 – Power Point Scenery Details – August 15, 2020

- More Details on Temporary Scenery Panels Created with Microsoft Power Point

Update 3 – Throwback to the 1950s – September 10, 2020

- Photos of 1950s Central Vermont Steam Trains on the N-Circle Railroad
- Simple Raised Sidewalks and Curbs Add Realism to City Streets
- Kit-Bashing Two Modern Truck Depot Kits from Model Power and Pola into One Long Freight House
    - Rearranging wall sections to create appropriate spacings for boxcars
- Detailing a Con-Cor Log Truck

Update 4 – Focus on Backdrops and Scenes – September 25, 2020

- Building a Moveable Backdrop for the Outer Edge of T-Trak Modules
    - Cardboard panels with mountains scenery created in Power Point for a moveable backdrop for photos
- Adding Details to a Micro Engineering “Murphy Manufacturing Freight Depot”
- Photos of Updates to the Scenery Panels on the N-Circle Layout

Update 5 – Backdrop Discussion and Named Passenger Trains – December 23, 2020

- Creating Inexpensive, Moveable Backdrops from Photos from the Web
- Southern Pacific and Santa Fe passenger “name trains” modeled with short cars for a small layout

Update 6 – Discussion of Changeable Scenery and Workspace Venting Project – March 8, 2021

- Exhaust Fan for Venting Modelling Fumes through a Sliding Door in Winter
- Heljan “Freight Depot” Kit Build
    - Detailing a simple kit build and creating a removeable extension section
- Freight Yard Module Personalization
    - A freight yard module with multiple tracks personalized as a 1980s TOFC yard and as a 1950s freight yard
- Photo of Vermont trains in the N-Circle’s North Yard

Update 7 – Constructing and Upgrading Building Kits Using Interchangeable Signs – April 7, 2021

- Piko “Forwarding Office” Kit Build
    - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
    - Creating interchangeable cardboard roof signs to repurpose a freight depot for different businesses
- Life-Like “Volunteer Fire Company” Kit Build
    - Building a fire station with an open interior
    - Creating interchangeable signs attached with magnets to repurpose a fire station for different cities
- Life-Like “Police Station” Kit Build
    - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
    - Adding interior light block walls
- Heljan “Furniture Factory” Kit Build
    - Detailing a simple plastic kit build
- Updated photos of the N-Circle layout incorporating recently completed buildings

Update 8 – Repurposing Low-End Plastic Building Kits to Create Distinctive Structures – August 14, 2021

- New Workbenches for building the N-Circle Railroad
- Life-Like “Rapid Recycling Center” Kit Repurposed as a Wayne Feeds Grain Mill
    - Adding a rear loading dock and door and signage
    - Eliminating light leakage in the interior
- RIX Products “Guthrie Grain” Kit Build
    - Building and detailing a pair of steel grain silos and an elevator for the Wayne Feeds Mill
- Model Power “Fire House” Kit Repurposed as a Restaurant
    - Simple kit-bashing of a plastic kit to a new purpose
    - Strengthening corner joints of buildings with plastic sprue scraps

Update 9 – Three Very Different Plastic Structure Kit Builds and Interchangeable Gondola Car Loads – October 2, 2021

- Atlas “Suburban Passenger Station” Kit Build
  - Tips and challenges from building a current-release, nicely detailed plastic kit
- AHM “American Farm House”
  - Upgrading an old “snap-together” plastic kit
- Pikestuff – RIX Products “Engine Facility” Kit Built as a Hopper Unloading Shed
  - Configuring and optimizing a very flexible recent-release plastic kit for a specific purpose as a grain hopper unloading shed for the Wayne Feeds Mill
- Layout Scenery Panel Updates
  - Rebuilding the scenery panels for the N-Circle layout using foam-core board
- Gondola Car Loads
  - Interchangeable gondola loads built on templates for incremental car lengths

Update 10 – Easy, Inexpensive Building Interiors and a Mini-Golf Course – October 25, 2021

- Model Power “Suburban Houses” Kit Build
  - Creating very simple interiors from scrap materials
- Walthers Cornerstone “Dew Drop Inn” Kit Build
  - Creating simple multi-level interiors using photos captured from the Web
- Merten “Mini-Golf Course” Kit Build
  - A simple-to-build interesting scene

Update 11 – Building a Fuel Depot from Four Kits and Modifying an Existing Structure – December 2, 2021

- Con-Cor “Cambria City Fuel Rack, Fuel Depot and Fuel Tanks” kits build
  - Building three commonly available plastic kits and adding detailing for a multi-configurable scene
- Building and Detailing Showcase Minatures Truck Kits
- Modifying the Roof Structure on an Existing Building

Update 12 – Building Shell Gas Station Scenes for the 1950s and 1980s and Vehicles Kits – January 30, 2022

- Walthers “Al’s Victory Service Station” and City Classics “Grafton Avenue Service Station” kits build
  - Building two commonly available plastic kits and surrounding scenes with many detail parts added
- Building and detailing Showcase Minatures, GHQ and C&C Minatures pewter metal truck kits for the Shell oil & gas facilities
- Building and detailing NuComp resin plastic car kits
- Updating the school scene
- Kit bashing a Wiking German truck into an American grain truck

Update 13 – Building New Restrooms for the Park, 1950s School Buses and 1980s Grain Trucks – September 5, 2022

- Green Max rest rooms kit build with kit-bashed roofs and scenery base
- Painting and detailing 3-D printed grain trucks
- Building and detailing GHQ pewter metal semi-trailer kit
- Building and detailing resin plastic school bus kits

Update 14 – Building and Detailing Pewter Metal Vehicles Kits Across a Range of Complexities – October 8, 2022

- GHQ and C&C Minatures pewter metal basic trucks
- GHQ and Showcase Minatures highly detailed pewter metal emergency trucks
- Decaling school buses from Update 13

Update 15 – Building a Bowling Alley and Detailing Plastic Resin Vehicles Kits – October 31, 2022

- Upgrading a simple plastic store kit from Wirl Wind for use as a bowling alley by adding signage and details
- Plastic resin automobile kits from Road Apples, Bruce Richardson's Cars, Fine N Scale Models and Garrick Gilhan's
- Storage system for N-scale vehicles

Update 16 – Creating Custom Decals, Painting a 3-D Printed Structure and Building Thin Metal Detail Parts Kits – December 26, 2022

- Creating custom decals for vehicles using decal paper and a home inkjet printer
- Painting a 3-D printed plastic hot air balloon
- Building thin metal bicycles, shopping carts and telephone booths from Gold Medal Models kits

Update 17 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 14, 2023

- Plastic resin automobile and truck kits from Cars N Scale, Hagen N Scale, Magnuson Models, Road Apples and Garrick Gilhan's
- 3-D printed plastic vehicles
- Johnny Lightning metal vehicles

Update 18 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – October 31, 2024

- Modifying an Ultimate N-Scale Tanker Trailer
- Modifying a 3-D Printed Tanker Semi-Truck
- Kit Bashing Classic Metal Works Trucks
- Building California Freight and Detail Company Vehicles Kits
- Building More Road Apples and Cars N Scale Resin Car Kits
- Building More 3-D Printed Truck Kits

Update 19 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 9, 2024

- Detailing more simple 3-D Printed Vehicles
- Three metal vehicles kits
- Upgrading Low Quality “Ready-to-Run” Models
- Authentic Minatures Dump Truck

Update 20 – Building and Detailing More Vehicles Kits – November 22, 2024

- Building more igmakes 3-D Printed Truck Kits
- Building stukamilov Resin Molded Trucks
- Building Skyline Creations 3-D Printed Backhoes
- New Construction Scene Panel

Update 21 – Building a Yard Signal Tower and More Vehicles Kits – April 30, 2025

- Building the Atlas “Signal Tower” Kit
- Building Three More Bruce Richardson Resin Car Kits

Update 22 – Scenery Upgrades - June 3, 2025

- Designing a Power Point Scenery Panel for the Northeast Corner
- Installation of New Backdrops on Endcaps

Update 23 – Building Laser-Cut Chicken Coop and Maple Sugar House Kits - June 6, 2025

- Building the Noch “Chicken Coop” Kit
- Building the N-Scale Architect “Maple Sugar House” Kit

Update 24 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Barn - June 7, 2025

- Building the American Model Builders “Country Barn” Kit

Update 25 – Building a Craftsman-Level Laser-Cut Wood Theater Kit – July 17, 2025

- Building the Laser-Art Structures / Branchline “Majestic Theater” Kit

Update 26 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Church Kit and a 3-D Printed House - July 25, 2025

- Building the Northeastern Models “Old South Church” Kit
- Creating Colored Stained-Glass Windows Using Microscale Kristal Klear
- Building a Simple 3-D Printed House Kit

Update 27 – Building Laser-Cut Wood Doghouses and Garages Kits – August 16, 2025

- Building the GC Laser “Doghouses” Kit
- Building the RS Laser “One-Car Garage” Kit
- Building the Blair Line “One-Car Garage” Kit
- Building the Atlas “Kate’s Colonial Garage” Kit

Update 28 – Building a T-Trak Module with 3-D Printed Structures – October 23, 2025

- Adding interiors to Crossing Print McDonald’s and Tim Hortons Restaurants
- Detailing Skyline Creations Sheds
- Designing Streets and Parking Lots Using Microsoft Power Point

Update 29 – Building a T-Trak Module with Farm Scene with Many Scenery Details – November 20, 2025

- Building and Detailing the Gloor Craft “Country Barn” Kit
- Building and Detailing Simple 3-D Printed House and Garage Kits
- Making Custom House Shutters
- Painting N-Scale Cows
- Building the Monroe Models Barnyard Fence Kit
- Building a Curved and Striped Rural Paved Road

Update 30 – Building Laser-Cut Wood Rail Yard Buildings Kits – January 16, 2026

- Building the JL Innovative Design “East Junction Yard Office” Kit
- Building the JL Innovative Design “Michigan Avenue Tower” Kit
- Building the JL Innovative Design “Bagwell Junction Tower” Kit

Update 31 – Building More Laser-Cut Wood Rail Yard Buildings Kits – February 27, 2026

- Building the American Model Builders “Yard Office Building” Kit
- Building the American Model Builders “Type A Depot” Kit
- Building the American Model Builders “One Story Section House” Kit
- Using Chooch Enterprises Roofing Material

Update 32 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Creamery Kit – March 22, 2026

- Building the Laser-Art Structures “Creamery” Kit
- Laser-Cut Wood Kit Perspectives

Update 33 – Building 3-D Printed Plastic Structure Kits – March 24, 2026

- Detailing a Mr Craft Structures 3-D Printed Post Office Structure
- Detailing igmakes 3-D Printed Trackside Shacks
- 3-D Printed Plastic Kit Perspectives

Update 34 – Micro-Scenes Development – April 25, 2026

- Micro-Scenes Development Background
- Creating a Micro-Scene Around the Post Office
- Creating a Small City Park Micro-Scene
- Building a Laser-Cut Wood Gazebo Kit
- Upgrading the Details Around the Existing City Hall and Fire Station Scenes

Update 35 – Building 3-D Printed Plastic Kits for a Park Scene – May 6, 2026

- Detailing a Terrain 3D 3-D Printed Log Cabin and Pup Tents
- Detailing Homestead Scale Company 3-D Printed Woodsheds

Update 36 – Building Laser-Cut Wood Kits for a Park Scene – May 29, 2026

- Building the GC Laser Open Storage Shed Kit
- Building a Laser-Cut Wood Retreat and Dance Shed Kit
- Mass Production Painting of Human Figures
- Kit Bashing a Portable Grain Auger

Update 37 – Adding Structures and Scenery to T-Trak Rail Yard Modules for the NWV – May 29, 2026

- Final Detailing of the Structures
- Adding Structures and Scenery to the Modules
- Adding Power-Routing Jumpers to a Kato UniTrack Double-Crossover

Update 38 – Building and Comparing Three Small Laser-Cut Wood Food Stand Kits – June 21, 2026

- Building the Bar Mills “Swanson’s Lunch Stand” Kit
- Building the GC Laser “Country Market” Kit
- Building the Osborn Models “Pete’s Market” Kit

Update 39 – Building a Laser-Cut Wood Freight House Kit – July 5, 2026

- Building the Creative Laser Design “Lyndon Freight House” Kit

Update 40 – Building a Styrene Plastic Church Kit – August 9, 2026

- Building the Walthers “Brick Church” Kit
- Styrene Plastic Kit Perspectives

Update 41 – Building an Etched Metal Diner Kit – August 25, 2026

- Building the Miller Engineering “Parkway Diner” Kit
- Etched Metal Kit Perspectives

Update 42 – Building Micro-Scenes for a Church and Two Restaurants– October 25, 2026

- Adding Scenic Details Around the Parkway Diner
- Adding a Wedding Scene in Front of the Brick Church
- Adding Outdoor Seating in Front of the Old Fire House Restaurant