

PLAN 6 AN ENGINE TERMINAL IN O SCALE

While we often associate John Armstrong's name with some of the most expensive and engaging layout designs sketched for model railroaders, for me, it was a simple 4 x 8 scheme *Model Railroader* first published in February 1953 that confirmed his genius. Even in the early 1950s, John recognized that model railroaders built more semi-portable 4 x 8-foot layouts than any other size, and he appreciated the convenience those layouts offered for operation without access holes. He also knew that on these small layouts, structures and details would be viewed close-up.

Engine terminals are usually abuzz with the activity of washing, turning, watering, and fueling locomotives for service, so it's easy to see how this model railroad could keep two operators busier than they might be on a larger layout with a traditional main line. Even if you choose to use the layout as a static display, a 24" operating turntable becomes an unconventional way to put your prized Pacific in motion without it moving an inch!

But beyond the turntable, there's still room for more action at the transfer table and car shop. With the aid of a small industrial-type diesel or tank engine, an operator can easily work full-length O scale freight cars on the shop tracks.

While some features suggest this scheme is best suited for steam era modeling, it's simple enough to swap the coal dock for bulk diesel fuel tanks and advance to an all-diesel affair.

No matter what era you model, it's hard to overlook the operating potential of this O scale layout – one that just so happens to fit within a 4 x 8-foot space. – *Kent Johnson, associate editor*

▶▶ The track plan at a glance

Name: Engine terminal and car shops

Scale: O (1:48)

Size: 4 x 8 feet

Prototype: freelanced

Locale: urban

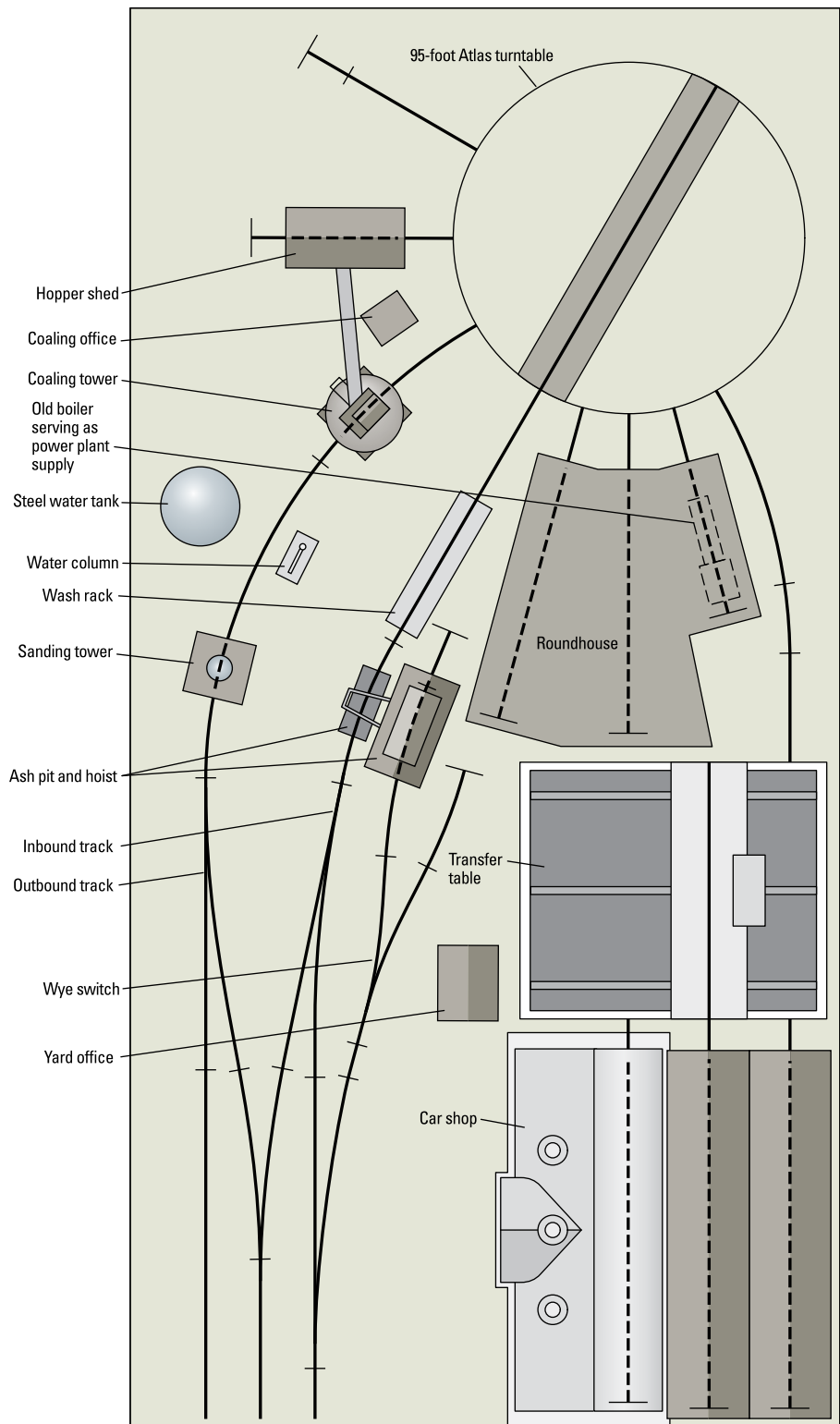
Era: 1950s

Mainline run: none

Minimum radius: 36"

Minimum turnout: no. 5

Maximum grade: none



Engine terminal and car shop

O scale (1:48)
Layout size: 4 x 8 feet
Scale of plan: 1" = 1'-0", 12" grid
Minimum radius 36"

All turnouts no. 5, joints shown for Atlas O two-rail sectional track
Illustration by Rick Johnson

Find more plans online in the
ModelRailroader.com Track Plan Database.