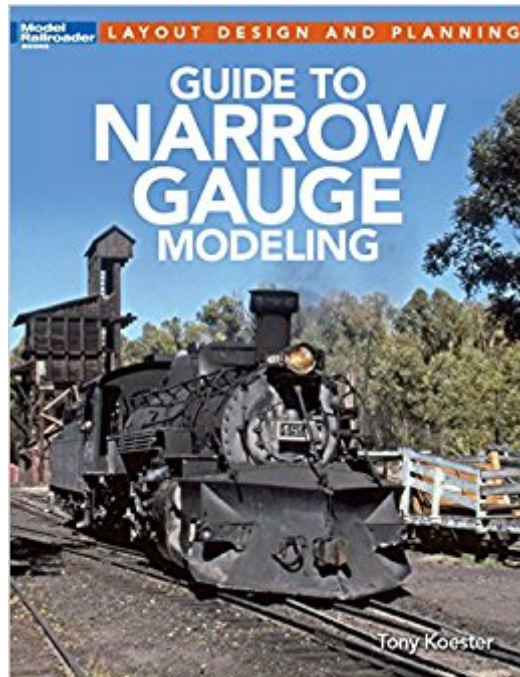




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Guide To Narrow Gauge Modeling (Layout Design And Planning)



Synopsis

This book provides an entry point for any modeler interested in building a narrow gauge layout. Narrow gauge railroads remain popular among railfans and modelers due to the spectacular mountain scenery in which many operated. Although narrow gauge layouts have a passionate niche following, there are very few books on this subject. The book is an overview of prototype narrow gauge railroading as well as available models. This is a one-stop book for introducing modelers to the subject of narrow gauge railroading. It explains why and where narrow gauge railroads were built, how they operated, what their equipment was like, and why they were abandoned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The latest from Tony Koester and Kalmbach Publishing provides a teasing overview of narrow gauge modeling. No doubt this is due to the constraints of Kalmbach's 96 page standard for this and similar publications. Nevertheless, Tony Koester's friendly writing style, erudition and research recommend this book for the modeler's library with some reservations. Primary among the reservations is the generality of the information presented. The novice narrow gauge modeler will no doubt extract value from the commentary, but anyone who has and does model narrow gauge, at least to an intermediate-skill level, may have their expectations quashed. A bold discussion of applicable and comparative standards of scale would have been helpful. Perhaps a chart or two (or three) could have cogently summarized and compared the necessities, constraints and demands of narrow gauge modeling in a variety of scales (let's recall the technical difficulties of squeezing a Faulhaber coreless motor with flywheel into an HO_{n3} boiler, or Sn2). Further, while brief histories of

several narrow gauge lines are re-told to stimulate the imagination of the modeler, only 6 track plans are presented - the book is, after all, subtitled: Layout Design and Planning. (If all modelers share one stimulus it has to be track plans!). The chapter dealing with commercial support is thinly veiled advertisement, yet I understand the need to suggest to the entry level modeler that he/she will have access to the materials and locomotives to whet their narrow gauge appetites. The chapter, "Car and Train Movements", is reflective of one of Mr. Koester's strengths - operation - and provides purposeful commentary for all modelers.

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