



**OPERATING TOY TRAINS IS ...**

***FUN!***

The more trains and people are involved, the more fun! And with larger layouts (usually impossible in smaller homes) there can be new experiences, new challenges, and new opportunities for fellowship. Hence the

***Tinplate Trackers - Austin, Texas***

## **Who? What? Where? How?**

### **Who are Tinplate Trackers?**

We are a group of people enjoying the operation of O-gauge tinplate trains on modules that are basically standardized, yet open to unlimited improvisation. We are not a club or organization in the usual sense. Rather, we're individuals who believe we can have more fun by working with others of like interest in building and setting up large operating systems of modules. To date our largest layout has been a 42' x 38' L-shaped layout.

### **What is Tinplate?**

Tinplate, in train language, refers to the toy trains and track -- such as American Flyer, Marx and Lionel -- built before World War II, when they were actually made of metal. However, toy trains built today are mostly plastic but the tinplate rails still remain. Tinplate trains are larger than most scale model trains and are lots of fun.

### **What are modules?**

A module is a unit, a short section of railroad, built to standard specifications so that it can be joined with other such units to form an oval layout. We thus distinguish it from a sectional layout, used by many clubs, which is made up of a number of units which assemble in only one way. The Tinplate Tracker modules, made in a few basic types, can be assembled in many, many different ways.

### **How large are the modules?**

Our specifications will help you build modules small enough to fit in almost any car (including compacts), light enough for one person to carry and set up, and that can be assembled into a system ready for operating in a matter of minutes.

1. Modules are 2' x 4' long, mounted on adjustable legs with the tops of the rails 40" above the floor. Modules are fastened together with C-clamps.

2. There are four main lines of regular O-gauge track. The first track center rail is 3½” from the front edge of the module. The second, third, and fourth track are 4¼” from the first. The tracks end 5” from the ends of the module and connect to the tracks of the next module via 10” sections of tracks.
3. Electrical connections between modules are made with 4-wire cables with 4-pin plugs/sockets and 6-wire cables with 6-pin plugs/sockets. Full details are in our Manual.

### **How Do I Join?**

It’s simple. There are only a few “must do” items in order to join the Tinplate Trackers; otherwise you may do as you please.

1. Participate in club activities.
2. Pay dues and assessments as established by the board of directors for the year.
3. Have fun!!
4. You also have an option to build, upgrade or purchase a mainline module that conforms to the club standards.

### **How do I get started?**

It’s easy. Attend one of our upcoming events. If you have a train you want to run, bring it with you. When you join the club, a current club member will be assigned as your sponsor. Your sponsor will help you when you have problems or questions. Have fun!!

### **Is there a charge for this?**

Yes, but it is low. Our dues are \$35.00 per year to help defray costs incurred by the club. You will receive the manual plus a series of Newsletters. You’ll also receive additions and updates to the manual. Please join today.

### **Where?**

We run at several Train Shows in Central Texas and visit layouts that our members have constructed in their homes.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO...**

\*\*Run your O and/or O27 gauge trains (even though you don’t have a layout) on a new, easy-to-build module system?

\*\*Obtain helpful technical information and specifications to aid you in building standardized modules?

\*\*Receive periodic Newsletters that bring you the latest information about the club?

\*\*Join with other Tinplate Trackers at informal get-togethers or at train meets to make a large operating layout -- up to 10 times a year?

\*\*Have a lot of fun with others, share tips, ideas, help each other?

Then join the Tinplate Trackers - Austin, Texas today. For more information about our club visit our web site [www.trainweb.org/ttat](http://www.trainweb.org/ttat) or call Steve Wise at 512-863-9797. You’ll be glad you did.