



Modular Layouts (NMod)

A guide for those interested in constructing a module.

What is a modular layout?

A modular layout is a collection of individual layouts built to a common specification to enable them to be brought together to form a variety of much larger layouts for longer and more realistic trains.

Group members are encouraged to construct their own layouts, whether freelance, British, Continental, American, Japanese, or anything that takes their fancy, but which can be joined together with other members layouts.

Differences in geography and topology are rarely noticeable on an assembled layout as the length of each module is sufficient to occupy the whole field of view of the spectator standing at a normal view distance.

Standards

The Berkshire Area Group modules are based on the NMod standards which make them compatible with other groups using the NMod standard. (Also compatible with N-trak modules)

Module Construction

Details on the requirements of a member's module are as follows:

Module must be either 4ft long, or 8ft (made of 2 x 4ft sections). Longer modules are allowable, but might be worth discussing with the club.

Framework to be 4in deep in order for ease of connection with other modules using "G" clamps.

Board surface for mounting track must be 3ft above the ground. Legs should have at least 1in of vertical adjustability to allow for uneven flooring.

Track centre lines must be 2/3/4/5in from board front fascia. Tracks stop 1 ½ inches in from the end of the module.

Inter-module track connections are by 3" joiners, we use a modified Fleischmann adjustable joiner, modified to allow for a ½ inch variation in overall length.

The two tracks nearer the front are designated Tracks 1 and 2; these tracks are used for through running with no connection to other tracks and controlled from the fiddle yard.

Tracks 3 and 4 are allowed to be linked to individual modules, allowing trains to move from the main line on to the individual's module and control can be switched between the fiddle yard and individual modules. (If controlled locally, insulated joiners must be used between modules)

Tracks 1 and 3 run clockwise, tracks 2 and 4 run anticlockwise, when viewed from the outside of the layout.

The inter-module wiring uses 9 pin D plugs and sockets as shown on the wiring diagram which can be found on our web site www.bagladdies.com.