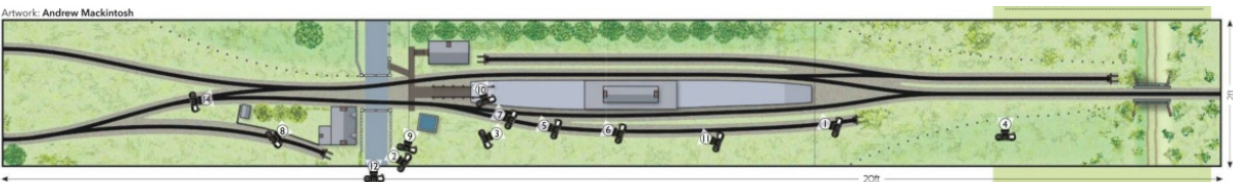


## Design Challenge 2022



The LDSIG Design Challenge has two facets. One is that it is based on the Southern Pacific Railroad's Peninsula Division. The second facet is that it is focused on shelf layouts.

A shelf layout is any narrow, and maybe short layout that generally takes less room than a full layout. Width can be anywhere between 6 and 24 inches; typically 12 to 20 inches. Length can be 3 feet on up to 24 feet, but often ranges from 6 to 12 feet.



If you are interested in the NMRA Achievement Program, bear in mind that a 60 inch by 19.5 inch layout meets the 8 square foot minimum for some certificates. And, depending on your scale, pay attention to total square feet for Scenery, and total track length required.

Although the Layout Design Challenge is often focused on the track plan, feel free to emphasize construction techniques, the design of the shelf and supports themselves, unusual techniques to fit into a room and complications of doors, windows, and access. And even fitting a shelf layout into an RV. This is the place to present unusual environments and designs - it is a welcoming, congenial community that welcomes the unusual.

One aspect of model railroading is displaying a train running "round and round". Many non-modelers like to see this (and some modelers too!). Since the shelf is probably too narrow for any loop, except for trolleys, ideas for "flip up" panels are welcome. Plug ins or slide outs are other ways to implement continuous running.

The prototype is the Southern Pacific line on the San Mateo Peninsula. I think Southern Pacific called this the San Francisco Subdivision.

There is quite a bit of information at <http://wx4.org/to/foam/sp/spins/books.html> and [http://wx4.org/to/foam/sp/spins/spins\\_peninsula\\_opt.pdf](http://wx4.org/to/foam/sp/spins/spins_peninsula_opt.pdf) has lots of maps of each city and town. Go through and pick out your favorite.

Sanborn maps can be a lot of help - the Library of Congress has many <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps> and you may be able to find some at other local libraries. It is sometimes tricky to find out what an industry does, and Sanborn helps. In the Genealogy section of larger public libraries, there are archives of city directories and street lists. You can get these at home, but they are free at the library. They will have descriptions and ads for local businesses.

Historic Aerials will have maps going back to 1900 and photos going back to 1946. <https://www.historicaerials.com/>

The Library of Congress also has some City directories and Phone Directories. Here is a link to a guide [https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib\\_guid/telephon.html](https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/telephon.html)  
More info here: <http://www.vasonabranh.com/railroad/timetables/index.html>

And here: <http://wx4.org/to/foam/sp/spins/books.html>

Not a lot of rules.

Any scale

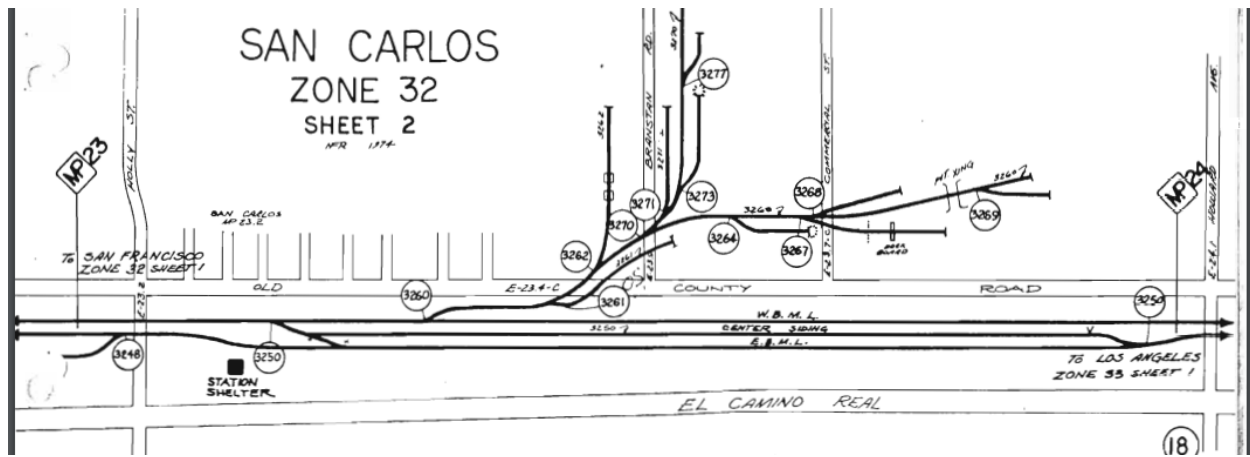
Max 24 inches wide (put preferably no more than 18, unless you have an excuse)

It can be as long and as short as you want.

No more than 9 turnouts, but wait - there's more.

This is a double track commuter railroad. As such, most of the busy towns had a separate switching track, that connected to the main line. Operationally, dispatch would not let you "use" the main - once you got to your town, you did everything on the switching track and all the sidings and spurs. So the nine turnout limit does not apply to the turnouts that get you from your yard track to the main, And of course, crossovers on the mains don't count toward your nine.

Here's an example (just delete a turnout to get to the nine)



One option is staging cassettes.

There was no rail-marine on the Peninsula proper but you could do something like Bill Kaufman's SP midnight shove.

Make a half dozen slides, with a track plan and some description of your industries. Keep your talk under ten minutes.

You might want to use anyrail - <https://www.anyrail.com/en> The trial version is free but you are limited to 50 track pieces. That should be enough.

Lance Mindheim has a website <https://www.shelflayouts.com/>

Iain Rice has a book "Shelf Layouts for Model Railroads"

Facegroup has "HO Scale Shelf Modelers" and "Micro/Small Model RR Layouts"

Philip Gliebe has a clinic:

[http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com/resources/Clinic\\_Presentations/Gliebe%20Designing%20small%20shelf%20Layouts%20for%20operating%20fun%202015-2.pdf](http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com/resources/Clinic_Presentations/Gliebe%20Designing%20small%20shelf%20Layouts%20for%20operating%20fun%202015-2.pdf)

Plenty on Pinterest by Ben Sippel

<https://www.pinterest.com/benjaminsippel/shelf-layouts/>

Model Railroader (Trains) has 60 shelf layout plans

[https://www.trains.com/mrr/how-to/track-plan-database/?\\_section=how-to%2Ctrack-plan-database&\\_plan\\_types=shelf](https://www.trains.com/mrr/how-to/track-plan-database/?_section=how-to%2Ctrack-plan-database&_plan_types=shelf)

Model Railroad Hobbyist is free, and here's one:

<https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/26982>

They have plenty, just search for them.

Shelf layouts are popular in Britain:

<https://www.newrailwaymodellers.co.uk/shelf-layout.htm>

<https://www.carendt.com/micro-layout-design-gallery/>

Cheers,

Mike O