



Modeling The *Mighty* PRR in S Scale Today

The following was published in the May 2006 monthly online publication *The Keystone Modeler*. It is free to receive and is produced by and with the PRR T&HS.

[The Keystone Modeler](#)

If you are curious or interested in modeling the PRR in S Scale click here:

[The PRR in S Scale Today PDF](#)

6-1-08 Update

I produced a 38 MB 97 slide PowerPoint Presentation that was shown at the PRR T&HS Phila Chapter meeting on June 7, 2008. It is very similar to the following but with many photos. You have my permission to use it in the promotion of modeling the PRR and S Scale to other Model Railroaders.

You can download the
presentation [here](#):

You have to have PowerPoint to view the presentation. If you do not have it you can download the PowerPoint viewer for free [here](#):

When I switched to S Scale from HO in 1987, the scale was at the beginning of a rebirth, with some nicely detailed generic plastic models available. Since that time, the growth and availability of new products and rolling stock has been nothing short of amazing. My interest in the PRR has evolved and grown along with the growth of S Scale. The Mighty Pennsy accounts for a large portion of the S Scale market. I will show you that you can plan and build a viable PRR layout with the products that are currently available. While there is not the total diversity of rolling stock that HO has, most major class pieces have been made, with more on the way. S Scale is approximately 33% larger than HO, (1:64th or 3/16" = 1") for those "aging HO eyes." Unlike O Scale "standard gauge", which actually scales out to be 5 feet wide, S Scale has the correct standard gauge track width. Furthermore, Bills Train shop <http://www.btsrr.com> is producing the East Broad Top in Sn3 in its entirety if you want to add a prototypical narrow gauge line.

The following is a current listing of accurately detailed models that have been or are being produced for PRR Prototypes, or can be easily made into *reasonably* accurate PRR models with some minor details added. While the detail level of the stock S Scale models is good to outstanding, my modeling for the past 10 years has been changing something to make it unique or superdetailing to make the model *mine*. All of the models shown are mine. With that said most of the models shown here are not stock out of the box, but that is what Model Railroading is all about anyway. I have at least one of most of the models listed here, but if they are not shown they are not painted yet.

Brass Rolling Stock

Steam Locomotives

Omnicon

- K4 As Built**
- L1 As Built**
- M1 As Built**
- M1a As Built**
- I1 Modernized**

River Raisin Models

- J1 Cast Frame Version**

Diesel Locomotives

Alco Models

Alco

RS2

RS3

RSD4/5

Greenbrier Railroad Models

EMD

GP30

Oriental Models

EMD

SW1

SW7

SW9

Overland Models

Alco

S1

S2

S4

FA2

FB2

EMD

E7 A & B

E8A

F3 A & B

F7 A & B

F9 A & B

River Raisin Models

Alco

RS11

Baldwin

RF16 Freight Sharks

EMD

SD9

G E
44 Tonner

Freight Cars

Southwind Models

F30
F34
GLca
GLcb
H21a
H22
H25
H31b
H31c
N6 Center, offset, & Lines West Cupolas
N8
Y4 Scale Test Car

River Raisin Models

GLd
H30
H30a
H32
X32
X33a

Overland Models

N5
N5b with antennas
N5c with and without antennas
Airslide Hopper 1965 version

Pennsy S Models

X29 Many versions due 2008
G26 2 versions due 2008

Passenger Cars

Southwind Models

R50b
B60 With 2 different roof styles
P70r

12-1 Pullman
13 DB Pullman

Plastic, Urethane & White Metal Models

Steam Locomotives

American Models (Plastic)

K4 (Streamlined)

Rex Models by Putt Trains (White Metal)

B6

Diesel & Electric Locomotives

American Models (Plastic)

Alco

FA2

FB2

PA1

PB1

RS3

Baldwin

S12

GG1

EMD

FP7a

GP9

E8

GP35

Fairbanks Morse

Trainmaster

Omnicon

Baldwin

RF16 Freight Sharks (Urethane)

S Helper Service (Plastic)

SW1

SW9

NW2

F7a

F7b

E7 (Due 2008 - 2009)

Freight Cars

Bills Train Shop

F39 (Plastic & Pewter)

H21 (Urethane flat panel kit)

P54 (Urethane flat panel kit)

Des Plaines Hobbies (Plastic)

H39

G24

X29 (Future release)

Kaslo Shops (Urethane)

N5c

Funaro & Camerlengo (Urethane)

GRa

FM

S Helper Service (Plastic)

F41

GLd

GLf

X26c

Passenger Cars

American Models (Plastic)

12-1 Pullman

13-3 Pullman

Track

Shinohara

Code 100 flextrack

Code 100 #6 & 8 turnouts

S Helper Service

Code 125 flextrack built to PRR Mainline standards

Code 125 turnouts with wood ties are in development

Tomalco

Code 70/83/100 flextrack, turnouts, crossings and track accessories

Fast Tracks

Turnout and frog building fixtures and jigs for code 83 to 125. Laser cut turnout tie kits.

This is where I could have continued the listing by including the many other plastic R-T-R and kit form cars that are available. However, the focus for this article is accurate PRR prototypes. Even the most discriminating modeler in any scale has to fill in the rolling stock collection with more generic models.

Considering that 80% of the above models were not available when I switched to S Scale in 1987, I truly believe that S Scale will only continue to grow at a faster rate than it has previously. What attracted me is that it *was* a minority scale. I can be a little obsessive. There was not the pressure of wanting everything that I might have had in HO. You *can* get everything if you want. However, even if you did that, you would still have a sizable collection and investment.

S Scale brass holds its value. The Omnicon L1 was almost tripled in value. The average production of any item is approximately 100 pieces. However, within the 100 pieces, you could have 3 or 4 versions. In a few cases, I have 3 of 18 pieces produced, making it a very limited and rare model. Building your collection can be part of the fun. But like in HO with pieces made by Key and Challenger Models, you cannot expect to go to a show or convention to get a certain piece as they probably will not immediately be available. It is best to get the piece when it is first released, again as with other scales as well.

You can also call up the owner of a company at home to make modeling or project suggestions. It very well could get made. I know that to be true, because I have done it. Try *that* with any of the major manufacturers in other scales! S Scale is a close knit community of people and friends that enjoy the common bond of modeling in the scale between HO and O Scale. In most cases, you will be buying most new pieces directly from the company who made the item.

In conclusion, S Scale today is not your old American Flyer. It is also not the Scratchbuilders scale that it was years ago. Perhaps you would consider a change to S Scale as well. The following is contact information for all the companies that were mentioned in the article. Note that I have included the owners or partners names, so you will know who you should contact. They may become your friends too. I would also recommend that you visit the National Association of S Scalers www.nasg.org for a link to most of the known manufacturers of S Scale products. I welcome any questions about changing scales or modeling the Mighty Pennsy in S Scale at bill@lanestrains.com or 856-848-5133

American Models
10087 Colonial Industrial Drive
South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Phone 248-437-6800
Fax: 248-437-9454
www.americanmodels.com
info@americanmodels.com
Ron Bashista

B.T.S
P O Box 856
Elkins, WV 26241
Phone: 304-637-4510
Fax: 304-637-4506
<http://www.btsrr.com>
bill@btsrr.com
Billy & Diane Wade

Des Plaines Hobbies
1468 Lee Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018
Phone: 847-297-2118
Fax: 847-297-4976
<http://www.desplaineshobbies.com>
dphobbies@earthlink.net
Ron Sebastian

Greenbrier Railroad Models
<http://www.btsrr.com/btsgrm01.htm>
Contact B.T.S.

Heimberger House

Exclusive distributors of Shinohara S Scale track
7236 W. Madison Street
Forest Park, IL 60130
Phone (708) 366-1973
Fax (708) 366-1973
<http://www.heimburgerhouse.com/index.htm>
info@heimburgerhouse.com

Fast Tracks
Quadica Developments Inc.
47 6th Concession Rd.
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5L7
Canada
Phone : (888) 252-3895
Fax : (519) 449-2399
<http://www.handlaidtrack.com>
service@fast-tracks.net

Funaro & Camerlengo
10 Funaro Court
Honesdale, PA 18431
(570)-224-4989
<http://www.fandckits.com/Index.html>
fandc@ezaccess.net
Steve Funaro

Kaslo Shops Distributing
2516 Quartz Place
Coquitlam BC Canada V3E 3K9
<http://www.kasloshops.com/index.html>
info@kasloshops.com
John Witmore

Overland Models
3808 W. Kilgore Ave
Muncie IN 47304
Phone (765)-289-4257
Fax 765-289-6013
www.overlandmodels.com
info@overlandmodels.com
Brian Marsh

Pennsy S Models
6 Stevens Court

Lafayette Hill Pa 19444
Phone 610-941-9183
Fax 610-941-9184
<http://www.pennsysmodels.com>
info@pennsysmodels.com
Bill Lane
Dan Mastrobuono

Putt Trains
P.O. Box 463
Orwell, OH 44076-0463
Phone (440) 437-8660
<http://www.putttrains.com/index.html>
puttrain@fairpoint.net
Terry Putt

River Raisin Models
6160 Upper Straits Blvd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 366-9621
Fax: (248) 366-9621
<http://riverraisinmodels.com>
info@riverraisinmodels.com
Dan Navarre

S Helper Service
77 Cliffwood Ave. Suite 7C
Cliffwood, NJ 07721
Phone 1-800-465-0303
Fax 1-732-441-0751
<http://www.showcaseline.com/index.html>
don@showcaseline.com
Don & Robin Thompson
Mike Ferraro

Southwind Models (Now Closed)
824 W. Russell Drive
Plant City FL 33564-3175
Phone 813-752-1636
jpadget4@tampabay.rr.com
Jettie Padgett

Tomalco Track

**289 Orchard Circle,
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-694-3858
Email LLmorton@mchsi.com
Larry & Lyn Morton**

No longer in business

Alco Models

Omnicon Models

Oriental Models

Southwind Models

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