

## O Scale railroad layout with classic German toy trains.



This table top railroad operates with locomotives, freight and passenger cars, as well as track, made in Germany by Märklin between 1928- 1935. The track was sent back to Märklin in 1980 for meticulous restoration and re-plating for better conductivity. The buildings and accessories were also produced by Märklin in the 1930's. The trains do not have the modern details and electronics of today's model trains, but these classics continue to run and run..

The layout was first constructed in 1993-94 by Dr. Dieter Schmidt who designed and engineered the layout. The benchwork was done to a furniture-like standard with each piece of the table fitting perfectly together with the next. Dr. Schmidt passed away in 2008 and his widow then sold his collection along with the layout. With the help of a friend in Frankfurt, I purchased the the layout and some trains just as the tables were about to sent to the dump. Now I am using the layout to display my expanding collection of vintage Märklin O scale trains.

I want to thank Franz Hoyer, in Frankfurt, as well as Lufthansa, BionadeOrganic Sodas, and Spaten Beer for their help in transporting my purchase to the Bay Area. At the time of its arrival, and even in Germany, all I had seen off the layout where the flattened tables and parts boxes without any track or any layout plan. I mistakenly believed it would be easy to piece it all together, but found out differently when a group of European train friends helped me move the tables into my basement. There the assembly was not obvious and it the end did not fit in the room. Well, friends working together to create something very special and after several sessions, the room was "modified" and the layout successfully assembled.

The 18' by 16' , U style layout can operate up to 4 trains simultaneously. The locomotives include steam and electrics and there are passenger and freights that whiz around the layout in and out of tunnels and past harbors, castles and stations. The engines run best using a DC power source. I hope you enjoy the layout as much as I did putting it all together.

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