



Downsizing your Model Railway



Time to Downsize?

- Kids have gone
- Less maintenance
- Need to lower running costs
- Need to release equity



So suddenly you go from this ...





To something like this ...





From a large, dedicated railway room
you move to:

- Half a garage or
- A spare bedroom



The Main Options

1. Present scale and gauge – smaller layout
2. Change to narrow gauge in current scale
3. Smaller scale – N or TT
4. Moving outside to the garden
5. Joining a model railway club



The Main Scale/Gauge Options

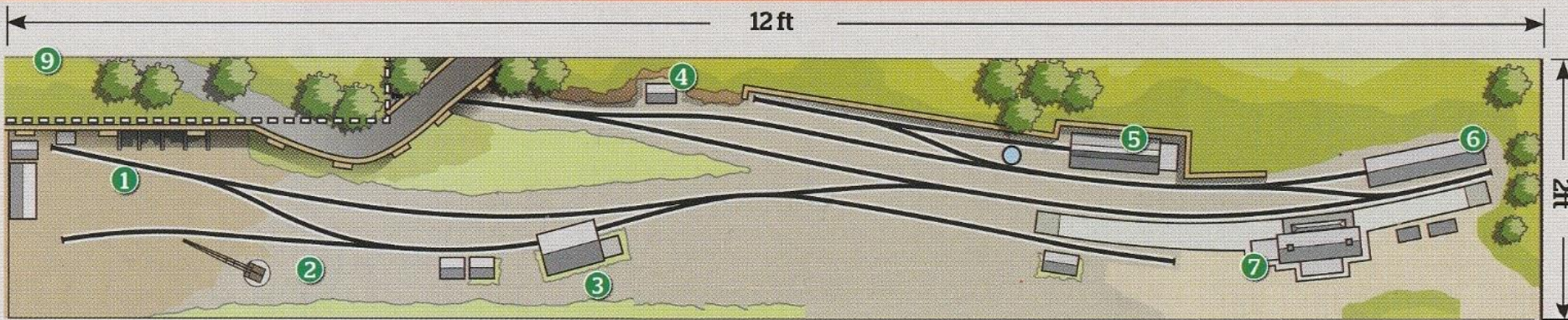
	OO	O-16.5	TT	009	N
Scale	1:76	1:48	1:120	1:76	1:148
Gauge	16.5mm	16.5mm	12mm	9mm	9mm
Min. Layout	3m x 1.2m	3m x 1m	2.5m x 0.6m	1.7m x 0.5m	1.5m x 0.6m
Ready to Run	Huge choice	Very little	Very little	Growing fast	Lots

Minimum layout is the space needed for a small continuous run layout
 Double track main lines need 50% more width



Keeping the same – An OO Branch Terminus

TRENANCE TRACK DIAGRAM (Not to scale)



KEY

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| ① Coal yard | ③ Goods shed | ⑤ Engine shed | ⑦ Station forecourt | ⑨ Concealed cassette deck beneath hillside |
| ② Goods yard | ④ Signalbox | ⑥ Carriage shed | ⑧ Platform | |



A Branch Terminus





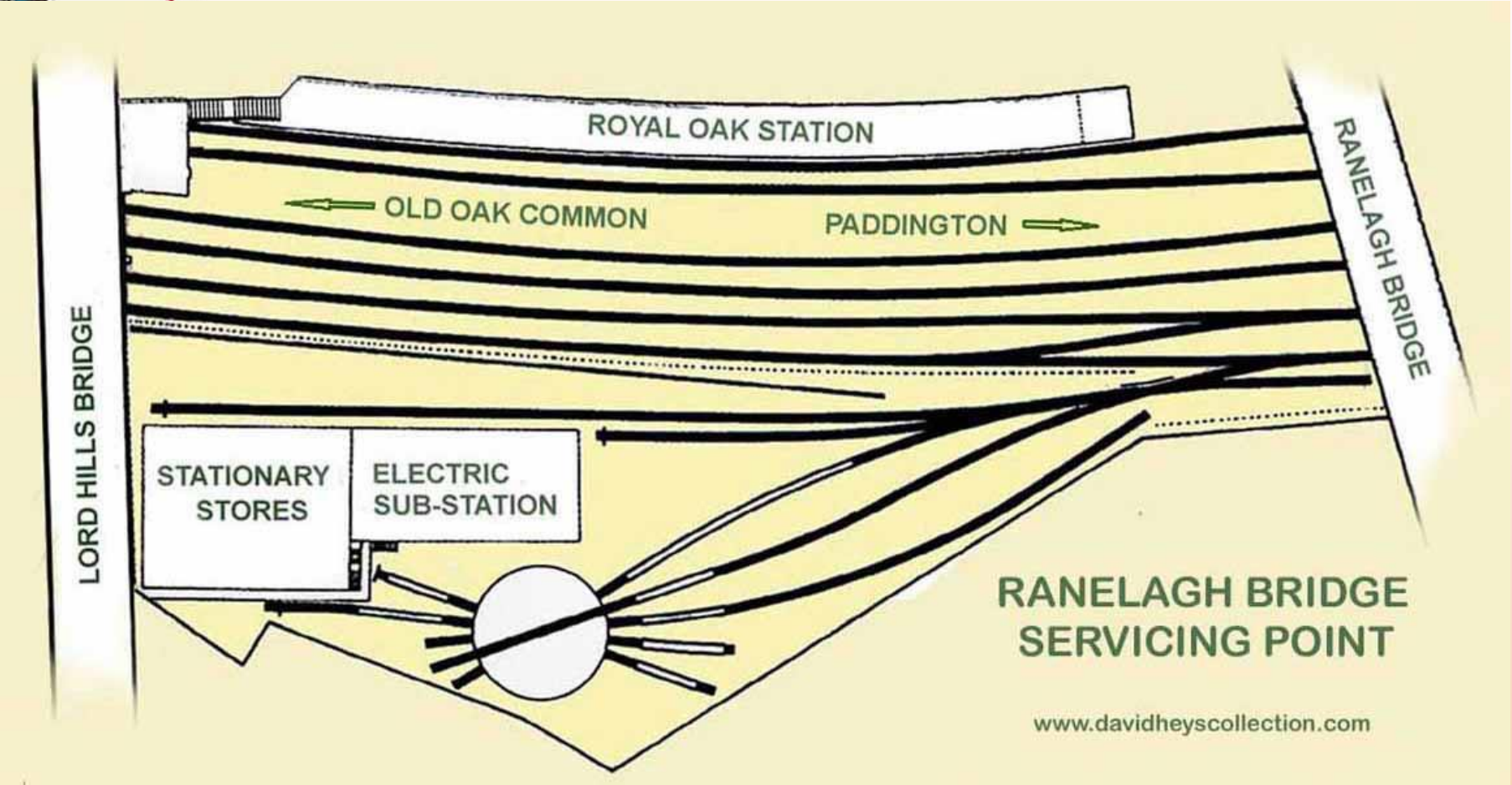
Keeping the same– An MPD





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Keeping the same scale – An 00 shunting puzzle



Inglennook shunting puzzle + shuttle

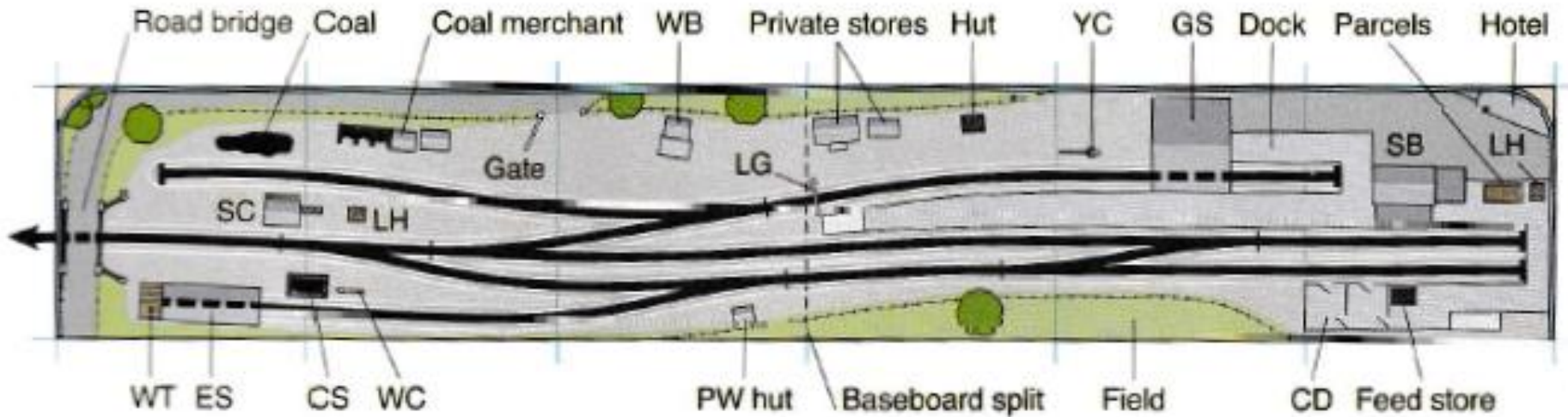


Downsizing to N Scale and Gauge





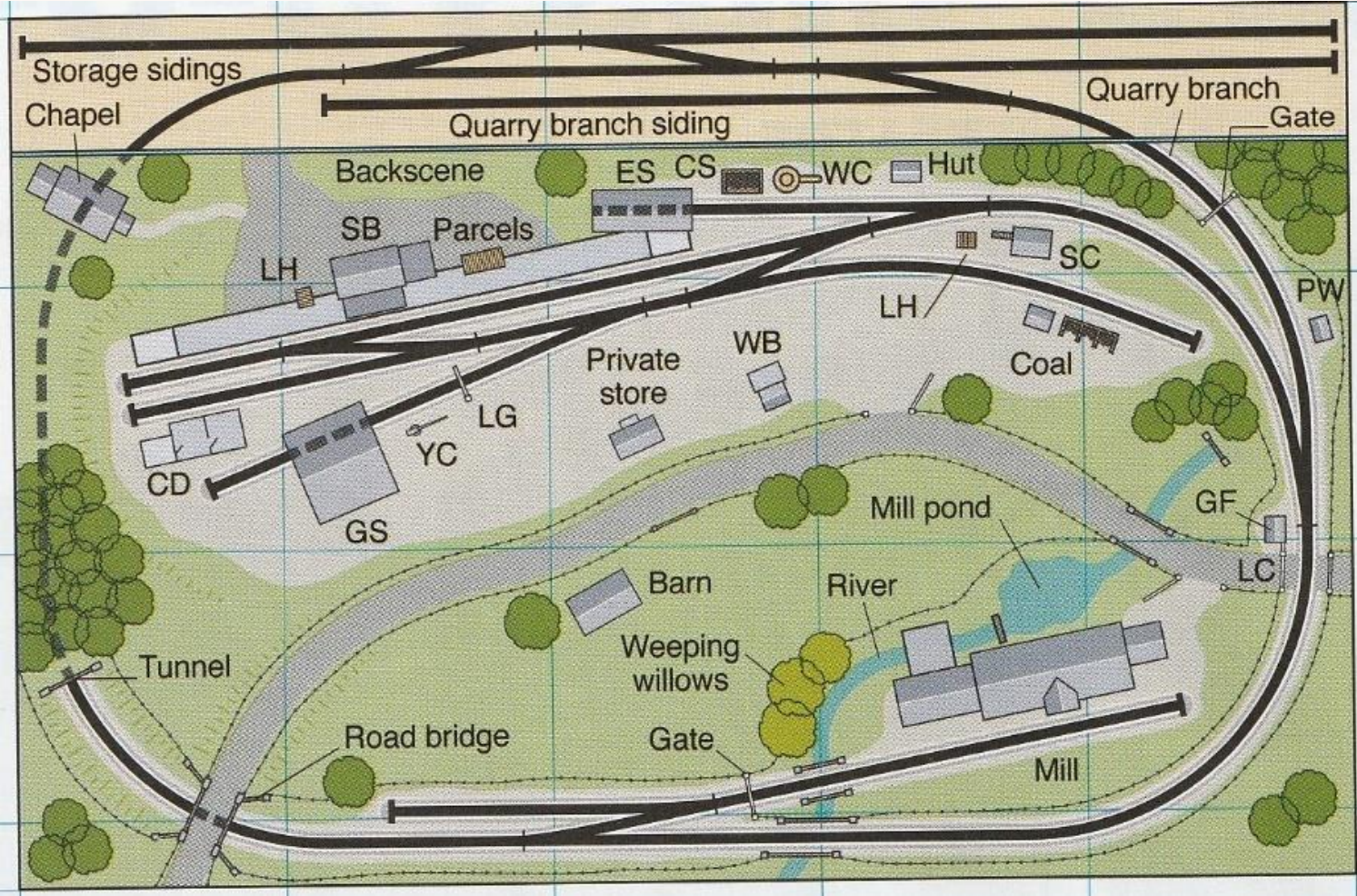
The TT 120 re-emergence



1.2m x 0.3m plus fiddle yard



The TT 120 re-emergence



Continuous run 1.5m x 1.0m

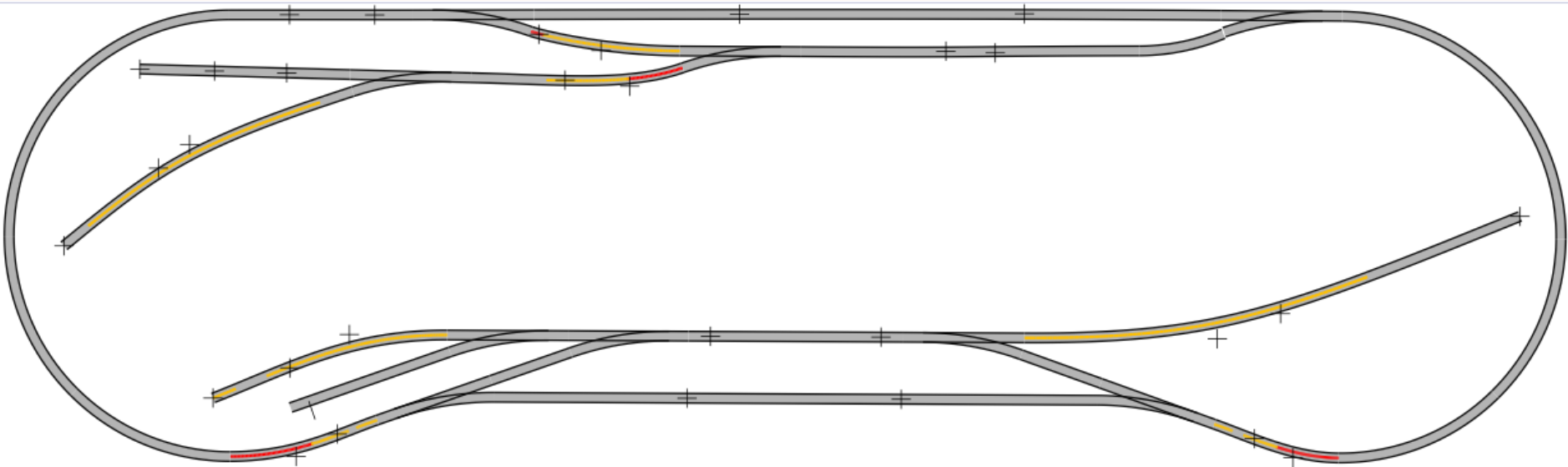


Narrow Gauge - O 16.5





Narrow Gauge - 009





Another option – the garden





There may be space in the garden





Garden Railway





In my own case, I went from





My Choices ... Give away my layout





My Choices ... Display my favourites





My Choices ... Sell everything else





My New Domain

Spare bedroom ... 5m x 3m

Home office

Modelling table

Layout(s)

Storage drawers

Book shelf



Layout 1 - Inglenook

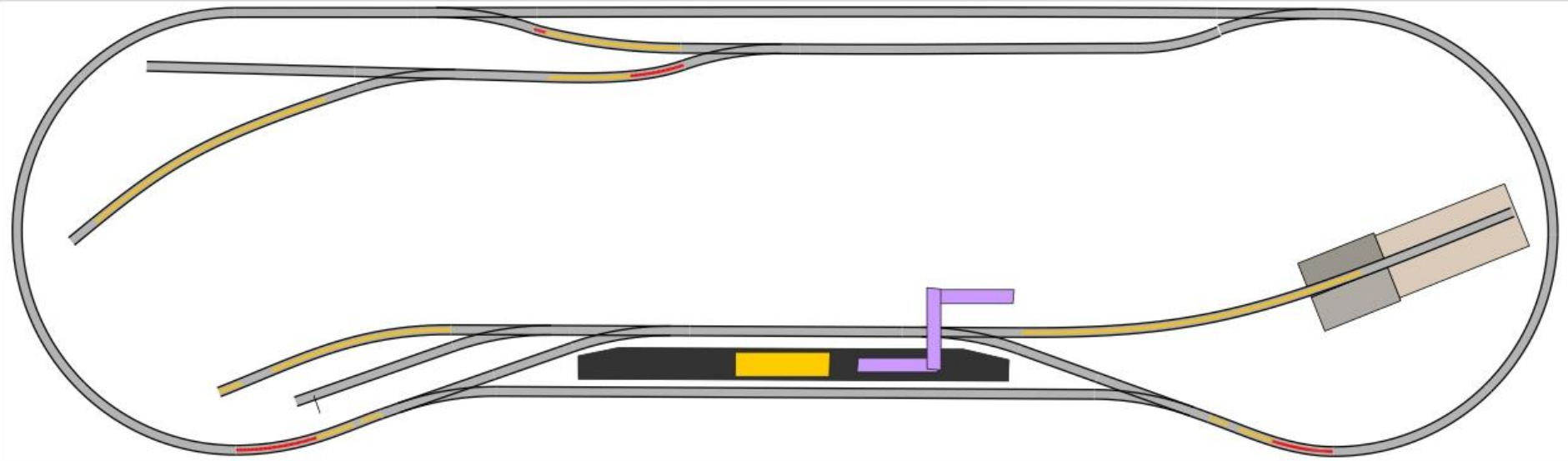


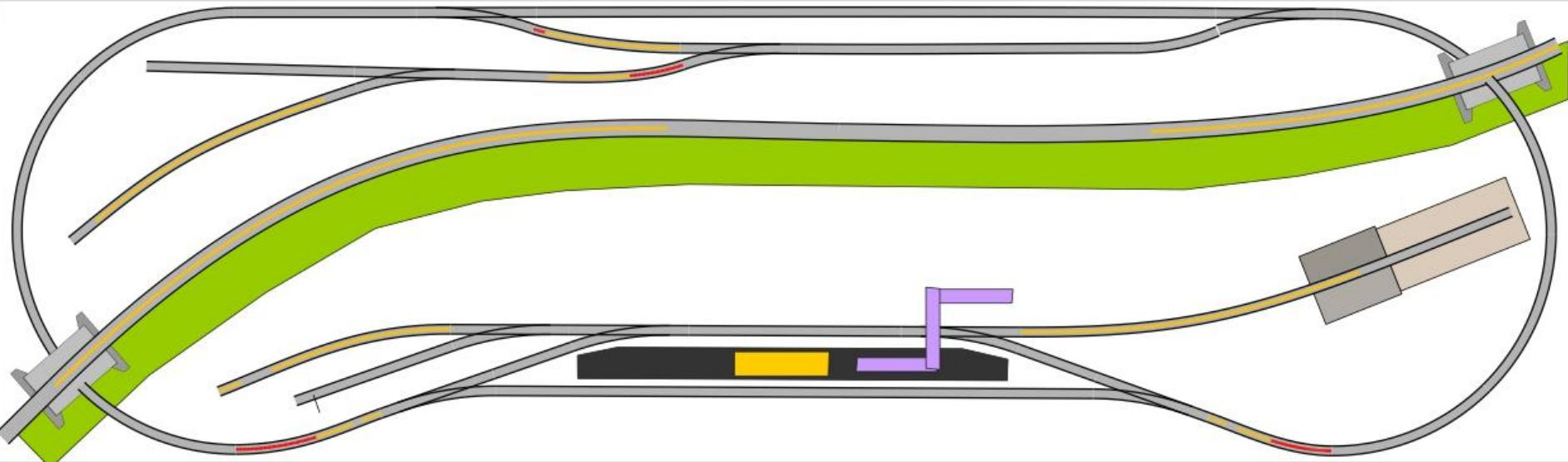


Layout 2 – O 16.5













Baseboard Building

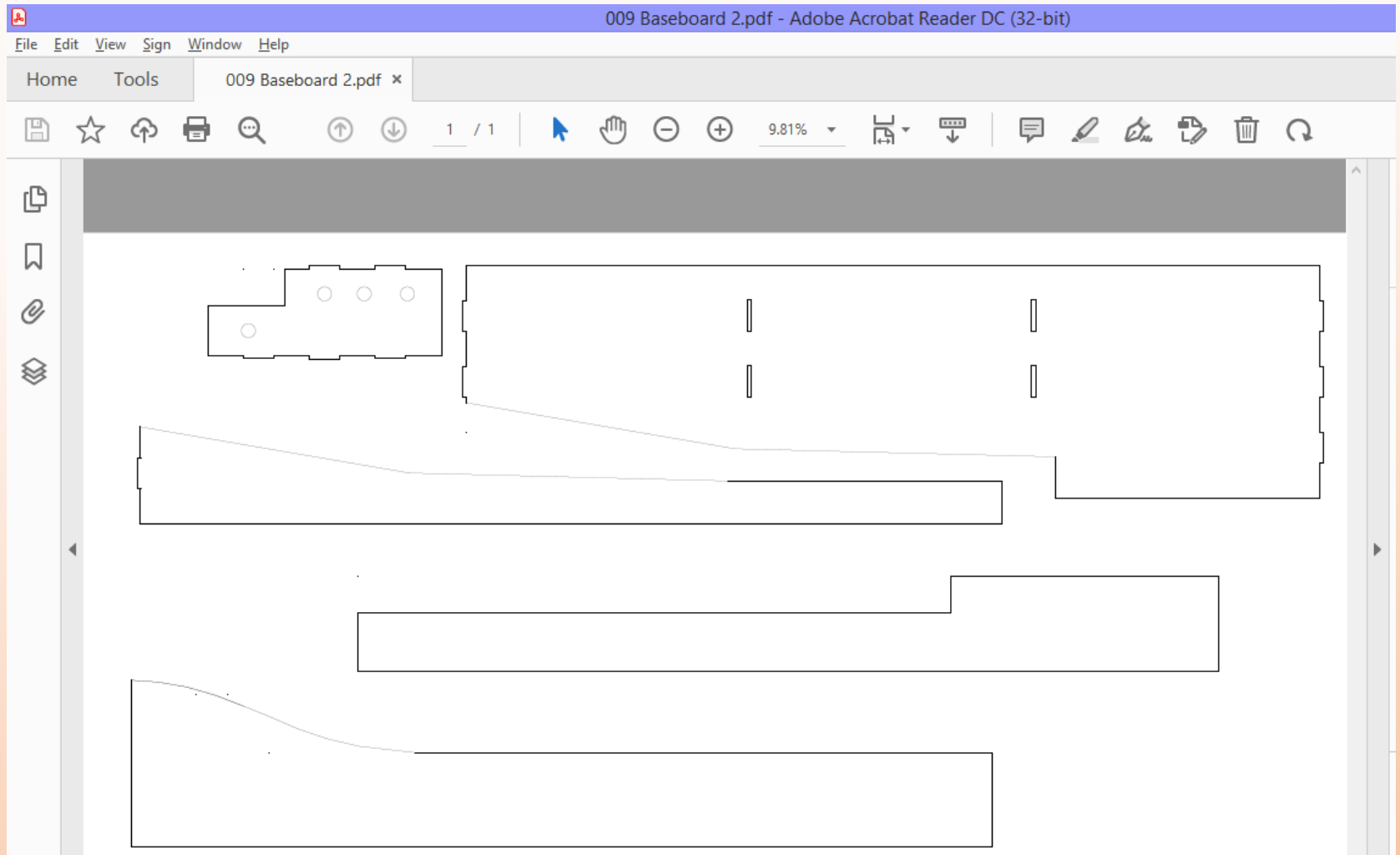
- No workshop, no carpentry tools
- Light strong and portable





Baseboard Building

- Can be built without carpentry





End Result





End Result





Layout 3 - 009





009 Summary

009 Negatives

- 9mm fiddly compared with 16.5mm
- 33% of my crazy points ended up in the bin
- Small locos make DCC sound difficult

009 Positives

- Lovely RTR locos and rolling stock
- Plenty of kits available from the UK
- A lot of fun in a small space with just 2 or 3 locos



And fun with the grandkids in the garden





My scale/gauge comparisons

OO/HO	Pros	What you are probably used to Can use existing stock
	Cons	Space limited to shunting or fiddle yard to terminus Limited operating value
O-16.5	Pros	Easy to build Continuous runs possible in one metre width Good play value
	Cons	Little British ready to run, a few kits
OO9	Pros	Continuous runs possible in 500m width Good play value Beautiful British ready to run locos and rolling stock
	Cons	Fiddly to build Hard to install sound decoders, etc.
TT 120		No experience to comment.



Any Questions?