

Greetings from The Netherlands

huib #1 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Dear David & Crew,

I have been following your old and new project for some time. It is not aonly the sheer size that is astnoshing (especially compared to European standards), but also the amount of detail you managed to put into it. Well done! It has really been a source of inspiration to me and I cannot wait the see it progress.

After years of modelling in H0 scale I switched to O scale about 2 years ago. Currently I am working on a layout based on the Dutch prototype in the 60's. O scale is quite rare in The Netherlands and you have to build most things by yourself, including rolling stock. But... that is part of the fun. Here are some pics to look at if you are interested. The full story is at: floodland.nl/aim/index_en.htm

Thank you for sharing your project!

Huib Maaskant

PS. By coincidence I am just about to fly to the US to tour the southwest with my wife and daughter. Maybe we will get so see some real US trains, you bever know 😊







David #2 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi Huib-

It's nice to hear from you, and thank you for signing in on the guestbook- and for including pictures! Love the details.

I know we are spoiled here with often having larger spaces for our layouts than in Europe. But it still comes down to creating a visual treat right in front of the eyes, no matter what the size, and you're on your way to doing that. Be sure to post more pictures as you go along. It's always fun to see what others are doing, and get ideas.

Have a nice visit to the USA this summer, and if you're passing through northern Colorado, let me know.

David

huib #3 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi David,

Thank you for your reply. I will add some more pics to this topic once I get home somewhere in July.

I am really looking forward to your building reports as you progress with your project. There is a lot to be learned by sharing information especially from (semi-)professionals like you and your team. I work on my project section by section and I complete the scenery before I move on to the next section.

Right now I am about to start on laying the track in a new section I am doing. With that in mind I am interested to see how you construct your turnouts. Do you use templates? Do you design them with a CAD program like Templot? Or do you just completely improvise on the spot?

Thanks for the invitation. I would just love to see the A&O some day, but this summer we will stick to Nevada and California. I will certainly drop you a mail next time we come around.

Take care,

Huib

David #4 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Huib-

I build the turnouts to fit the location. I don't know if you saw this year's Model Railroad Planning (2009) issue, but there was a sidebar in the article on A&O 2.0 on using splines to layout the track centerlines. This precludes any specific turnout #, and usually ends up producing turnouts with mild curves throughout, but not a problem as the trackwork then flows through the scene. There are many articles out there that describe building turnouts in place. Perhaps one day we'll get some photos on the site as I build one just for reference.

Not so sure about us being "semi-professionals", but we do have fun!

David

Texas_Eastern #5 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi Huib,

Nice details! Great to see O-scale modeling in another country. Have fun in the States, but just one thing...California is not in the "Southwest"...that's OK though, I bet some residents wish they were...

😏 OK OK, just poking a little fun at our California freinds... 😊 (I have to, my brother lives in LA 😊)

huib #6 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi David,

If I understand you correctly, you just set out the center line and then kind of improvise the rest. Interesting method. If you have any photos to illustrate the process, that would be of great help to several people.

Hi JB,

Ah alright, so the southwest would be any state in the southwest, excluding California? 😊

BTW: we have made it to Idaho by now.

Bye!

Huib

David #7 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Huib,

Perhaps when we begin construction again and laying out track locations I will get some pictures taken and show how it's done. I'll try to remember. I need to get stuff like this on the construction page anyway.

Hope you're having a good time in the States.

David

Texas_Eastern #8 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

[quote="huib"]Hi David,

Hi JB,

Ah alright, so the southwest would be any state in the southwest, excluding California? 😊

BTW: we have made it to Idaho by now.

Bye!

Huib[/quote]

Something like that... 😊 Hope you are enjoying the States...and a happy father's day all!

Bob #9 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Enjoy your trip!

Don't miss a dinner featuring fresh Idaho Salmon (if it is in season, I no longer remember the best months as it was some time ago.) For me, a great salmon dinner spent with talented colleagues was one of the highlights of a business trip to Boise, ID.

That was in years prior to the revival of my railroading passion, so I cannot give any guidance for the railfanning/trainspotting opportunities.

Wishing you the very best.

huib #10 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi all,

Since you are so busy laying track, I thought it might be fun to share some pics of track laying the Dutch way with you. The tracks are based on the NP46 type of track, which was mainly used on branch lines. The sleepers are cut from Abachi wood, the track is from Peco and the small parts were produced by Wenz (a German O scale company).

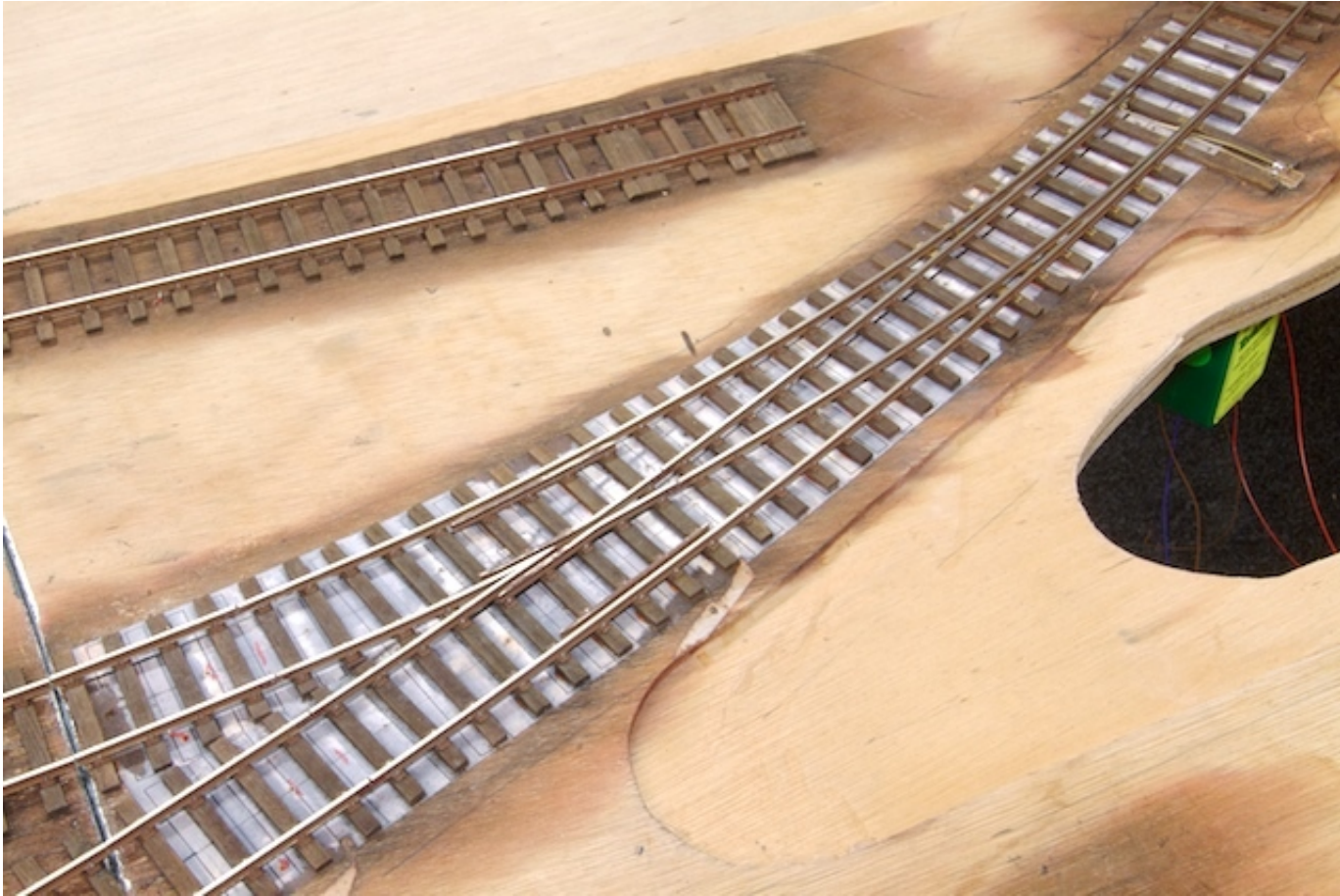
I can't believe how fast you are progressing. I just love to see more photos 😊

Greetings,

Huib Maaskant

floodland.nl/aim/index_en.htm







[huib](#) #11 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

And a few more...





Chester #12 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Nice trackwork Huib. I'm gathering track supplies even as I write this for my railroad. I really enjoy handlaying track and this O scale stuff is good for detailed track, two rails, two tie plates, four spikes per every tie plus the rail head will be notched every 39 ft with a joint bar glued to the side of the rail, all switch components are Right-O-Way switch parts. Rail is code 125.

More to come.

Chester

David #13 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Beautiful work, Huib. The coloring of the RR ties (sleepers) is impressive, along with the tie plates, etc. On a small layout space it really is the details that make the difference; and make it seem larger

than it is as well. I'm not sure if the A&O 2.0 will have time for such track details given its size. We'll see.

Glad to hear you are carrying the torch for O Scale in Europe. And doing a superb job at it.

I'll get some more 2.0 construction photos posted as we get toward the holidays. I've been faithfully taking pictures as I go along. Just a lot of benchwork puzzle in process at the moment.

Keep us posted as your rail goes down!

David

huib #14 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi David, Chester,

Thank you for your replies!

I do not know Right-O-Way. Do they have a website?

BTW Funny you call it a small layout space (no offence taken in any way). In The Netherlands 6 x 5.5 Mtrs (19.7 ft x 18 ft) is considered very large 😊😊😊😊

Keep up the good work!

Huib

Fred_Mullins #15 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Huib,

Thanks for sharing your photos of your progress! Your track work looks great! So I guess if your layout is considered big then most only have a one or two section layout with a lot of staging??

Fred

Chester #16 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Huib,

Give me your email address and I will send you a .pdf of Lou's catalog. Write to me at "2footer_at_comcast_dot_net". Same goes for anyone else that would like a copy.

Chester

huib #17 February 14, 2016, 10:33pm

Hi Fred,

A typical layout size would over here would be between 3x4 to 4 x 5 meters. Larger scales (larger than H0) are seen rarely here. Market share of 0 or 1 gauge is probably only a few percent. G scale is slightly more popular as some people tend to use it outdoors. H0 scale is about 60% of the market, next is N with roughly 20% of the market.

O scalers usually build two to four 120 x 60 cm modules. Once of twice a year there is a meeting where everybody can hook up his modules. I do not know anybody with a large O scale at home.

Chester: you have got mail!

Grtz!

Huib

huib #18 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi all,

I have been checking the A&O log regularly for updates ever since I found this website. I must say: this project keeps getting better and better. You guys are doing an absolutely job!

I have included a few photos of the Dutch O Scale layout I am working on. It's about the size a of a stamp compared to the A&O, but there is only one person building it (me). Keep up the good work!

Grtz,

Huib

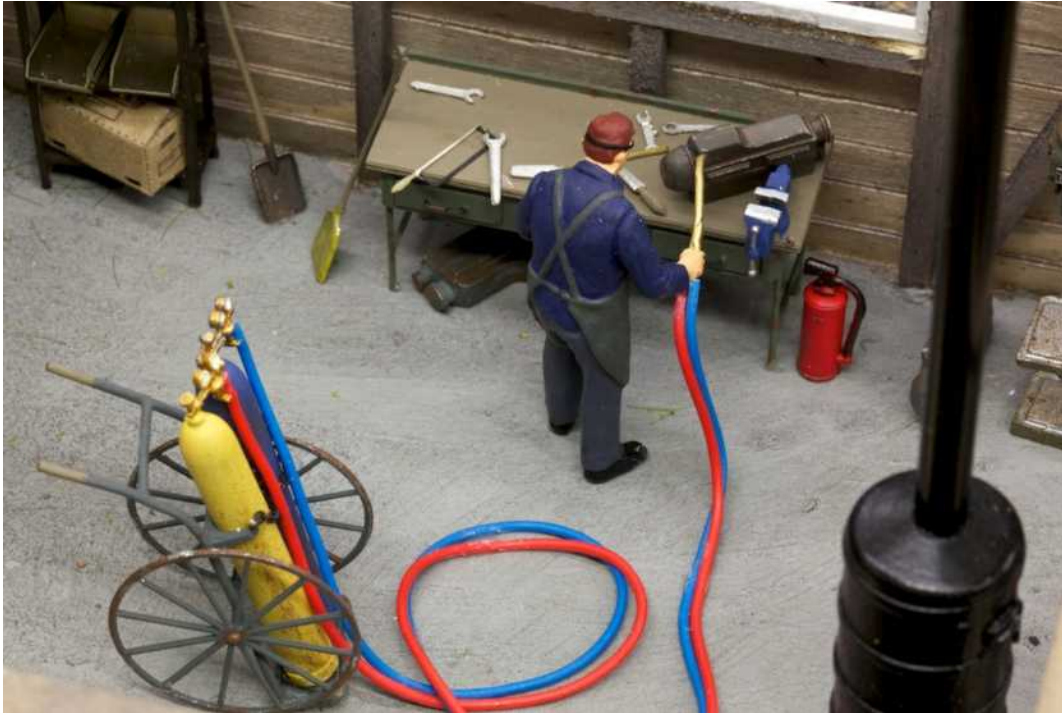




huib #19 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

And a few more for your enjoyment...





David #20 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Greetings Huib,

Wow! What beautiful work. Your models are amazing. I love the details, including the person with the

cane standing, looking out the house window thru the curtains. Nice touch. Viva la O Scale! And how did you do the thatched roof? When I was in the Netherlands last summer I saw several of them.

Do you have a club or place where you can showcase your work. It needs to be seen!

Thnaks for sharing,

David

huib #21 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi David,

Did you like Holland? Don't forget to drop me an email next time you're around. We'll cook you dinner



As for you questions...

Here is a How To on the thatched roof. It is in Dutch, but Google translate might help. I will translate the page into English over the next few weeks. floodland.nl/aim/info_boerderij_1.htm

Anyway, here is a quick translation of the text:

The building itself is made from 3 mm MDF, laser cut according to drawings I made in Adobe Illustrator.

It has an illusion of an interior, mainly put together in Photoshop.

The thatched roof as constructed in four stages:

1. First I made a base roof from foam board. The roof is glued to the outside and interior walls. It makes the structure very rigid.
2. I created a second roof layer exactly in the shape of the thatched rood. Again this was made from foam board. The roof was spray painted black.
3. I added a layer of grass to the roof, using an electrostatic grassing tool and standard H0 length grass fibres.
4. I painted the grass in the right colour, strictly moving the brush downwards. This flattens the grass fibres to resemble a Dutch thatched roof.

The top edge of the roof was made from styrene profiles. Everything was painted and weathered.

Sounds easy, but it took a while to figure out the right materials and working order.

Regarding your question about a club. No. I am not a member of a club. like you, I am building this layout in the basement of my house. But you are more than welcome to visit us whenever you make it to Holland again.

Take care!

Huib

David #22 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi Huib,

I'm really furstrated I didn't connect with you when we were over last summer. That would have been great. I have visited other modelers via this website when doing international travel. Next time.

I should have known that european modelers would have figured how to model thatched roofs. The porcess does sound like it takes some practice to get the correct look.

We enjoyed Holland very much. We were in Amsterdam, Harlem, Gouda, and Delft- where we happened to catch their float parade in early August. Fun, and all very interesting. So much to do and see. And I had no idea there would be canals *everywhere*.

Thanks for connecting and keep posting pix of your beautiful work!

David

huib #23 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi David & crew,

A couple of weeks ago I flew to NYC, picked up a Harley and rode across Virginia and Pennsylvania (and 8 other states). It was really fun to see a part of the Appalachian mountains for real. And I did get a feel of what you guys are trying to bring to life. It is a great piece of the US! It is also fun to see the progress of the layout. Please post more photos if you can. I really enjoy looking at them.

Here is a 'cab ride' video of my own layout I made in August, shortly before my trip to the US. Different, but fun to watch I think.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2msu3v0duzc>)

Keep up the good work!

Grtz,

Huib

David #24 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Wow, Huib. What a fun thing to do! And very adventurous too, I might add. I am glad you got to see some of the Appalachians. They have a unique modeling charm. Not fancy or polished. Kinda worn and overgrown. But cozy and like individual vignettes that say "model me." And if we ever get the past the benchwork stage I'll try to do just that!

I would think some pictures will be posted soon. We have an A&O open house on the 28th of September, so pictures will be taken. We've been busy building some of the interior walls and laying rail. Bob's been getting some new panels installed. He's actually caught up at the moment. But I'll fix that 😊

Your video is really neat. All the more makes me regret not connecting with in person last summer when we were in Holland. You are an excellent modeler, and your scenes look like the Dutch countryside. Great work. Hopefully someday we'll get some new videos of 2.0 to share. 😄

Thanks for connecting. Watch for posts on the Crew Logs section.

David

Chester #25 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

I'll second what David said. Those trees are great looking. Are they scratch or commercial?

Chester

huib #26 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi David, Chester,

Thanks for your posts. I am looking forward to the updates.

I also bought a book on the work of O Winston Link. I think that more or less captures the same part of the States, right? Of course that's steam and you are modeling the diesel era.

@Chester : those trees are hand-made by two fellows in Germany. They only build to order, but the trees are not that expensive (I don't need a lot them anyway). They look amazing at close range. I also put a few cheaper trees in the background as well. There are hardly any trees of this size (15 - 20 inch) available from the 'big brands' in Europe.

Take care!

Huib

Bob #27 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Huib -

Your modeling is inspiring. Few of us have enough honesty to model things to scale, especially trees and larger bushes, on a train layout. In your photos the scenery has a beautiful variety of details and textures instead of just a few repeated materials, especially in photos IMG_2800 and IMG_5113. No two trees or shrubberies are the same. Each plant looks like a different species, with varying colour (color for us west of the pond) just as we observe in the outdoor world.

Please keep sharing your work with us!

By the way, would you be so kind to share information regarding the cameras you used to make your video, and what you learned to produce it? It was extremely well done.

huib #28 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Hi Bob,

I just fond your message. Sorry about the delay 😊

The camera I used for the film is a standard GoPro Hero3. I set the field of vision to 'narrow' and strapped it to a flat car with tape. The shots from the side of the layout were shot with a Canon XA20 HD cam. The footage was color corrected and edited with Adobe Premiere. The quality of the GoPro

is amazing. If you go out and buy one, please consider buying the extra battery pack. The standard battery lasts for about 40 minutes and takes hours to recharge.

Here are a few recent pics of the layout...

Heading out to work.



View on the guard's house (typical line side railway owned home)



DE-1 diesel train halting in 'Soest'.



Grtz!

Huib

[huib](#) #29 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

And three more...

Signal box. Still needs an interior and its roof attached properly.



Along the line, with a French built Dutch diesel locomotive.



New project: the long since demolished engine shed of 'Baarn'; I had the walls laser cut after I made the designs in Adobe Illustrator.



Take care,

Huib

huib #30 February 14, 2016, 10:34pm

Two more images of the station of 'Soest' (accurate model of the real thing):



Grtz,

Huib

David #31 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Terrific pictures, Huib. But that requires terrific modeling. Great stuff. Thanks for posting.
David

huib #32 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi David & crew,

Wow, it has been two years since my last post here. But... I have been checking up on the progress of the A&O regularly. Great stuff guys! Can't wait to see a new update come along.

Just in case any of you get bored from watching US train pics, here is quick update on my project in Holland. I have added backdrops, done quite a bit of landscaping and finished all buildings except one. I hope to finish the layout (well, for 98% that is) in 2016. Here is random selection of recent pics...





huib #33 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

And some more...





huib #34 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

And more. Because we can 😊

More stuff to see at [flickr.com/photos/8050690@N ... 9685247285](https://www.flickr.com/photos/8050690@N...9685247285)

BTW. There is a pretty big chance I'll be mad enough to ride motorcycle across the US this summer. Would be great to meet you in person, if possible.

Take care!

Huib





Bob #35 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Wow! All I can say is WOW! Your buildings and scenery are beautiful!

For example, the dog sitting in the drive, well trained but still guarding his home, makes the scene REAL! And he makes me carefully consider walking any closer. The buildings and trees are amazing.

Outstanding work, Huib!

By the way, how does one properly pronounce your name? I'm certain if you ride a motorcycle out this way, a warm welcome would greet you.

huib #36 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi Bob,

Thanks for your reply.

Funny you mention the dog. There is quite a story attached to this building. It is my grandfather's bakery as it once stood in Holland. He had a German Shepard and it was always in the drive.

In case you're interested: here is the background story:

floodland.nl/aim/bak_geschiedenis_en_1.htm

About my name... that's something most non-Dutch speakers struggle with a bit. A simple English word that is more or less in the right direction is 'hype'. Or else I would say 'haip'. The right 'ui' sound is not common in English though.

I'll be planning the US tour over the next few weeks. Could you give me a hint where you are located at huib@floodland.nl?

Take care!

Huib

David #37 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi Huib,

Today Bob and I admired your work as we had lunch. I wish you could have heard our conversation, but it would probably have made you blush. We are just amazed at your craftsmanship, scene composition, attention to detail, and colors- blending everything so seamlessly into the photo background. Such superb work. Have you been published in the Europe Model Railways publications? You certainly should be. How I wish I had visited you when we were driving through Holland 2-3 summers ago.

But you are most certainly welcome to visit here. I live about an hour north of Denver, Colorado. I don't know your motorcycle plans, but if it works out, we'd love to connect. If your travels look they will bring you my way, email me and we can set something up.

david@aoarailroad.com

I also enjoyed reading about your grandfather's bakery. It makes your model all the more special. So glad to hear they survived the war. So many did not.

Thanks for sharing your work on the website. I am honored that you would do so.

David

huib #38 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi David,

Thanks for your reply. 😊

I am planning to start the trip mid August in LA, then up to SF, along Lake Tahoe to Salt Lake City and then down to Denver. From there on south to New Orleans, Miami and then along the coast via Washington DC to finish in NYC towards the end of September.

I'll certainly drop you a mail when the plans start to materialise.

Thnx!

Huib

Craig #39 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Wow Huib,

Amazing amazing work. I'd love to talk to you about your techniques. Something that will strive for on my railroad, that is for sure.

Your motorcycle trip sounds great. I too had a bike for many years (sold it a few years back), so if you would like to hear of any trips in Colorado, please feel free to ask. We might be able to find you an awe-inspiring trip between Salt Lake and Denver, if you are looking for something off of the beaten path.

huib #40 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi Graig,

Thanks for your help. I'll get back to you later this year about the routes.

I uploaded some new images to Flickr yesterday: [flickr.com/photos/8050690@N08/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/8050690@N08/)

Back to work now 😊

Grtz!

Huib

huib #41 February 14, 2016, 10:35pm

Hi all,

Here is an idea that might of interest to you: The LocoBox.



The LocoBox is transportation box for rolling stock in O Scale. Made entirely from laser cut plywood. Download the files and build your own from floodland.nl/aim/info_locobox_en_1.htm

Have fun with it!

Huib

huib #42 February 28, 2016, 10:05am

Hi all,

I have created a simple tool I would like to share: an adjustable maintenance stand door O gauge and up.



Here is the story: http://www.floodland.nl/aim/info_locobed_en_1.htm

I've published the files for laser cutting it on the page above. Please feel free to make one yourself!

Grtz!

Huib

Bob #43 March 1, 2016, 4:46am

That's a beautifully designed locomotive and car cradle!

Grtz!

huib #44 June 17, 2016, 2:44pm

Hi all!

Looks like my plans to travel to the USA are really going to materialise. As it turned out, the best option is to ship my bike from Amsterdam to Canada by air. I'll arrive in Toronto on August 15th and then drive down to New York. From there on I'll head to DC, through Virginia down the Smokey Mountains, take right somewhere to Nashville and head towards Denver. I'll probably get there in the second week of September. Would be great to team up with the A&O crew if possible. Does that fit your plans?

From Denver i'll drive on to the Rockies, SF, Seattle and fly back from Vancouver of the 26th of September. I'll draw up a more detailed itinerary over the next few weeks.

I also did a lot of work on my Dutch layout Buitenlust over the last couple of months. Those interested can find a ton of new pics on my Flickr photo stream. Just have a look at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/8050690@N08/>

Take care!

Huib

Bob #45 June 19, 2016, 12:32am

Huib -

That is great news. I look forward to meeting you in person. Feel free to send email messages through this forum to any of us if you desire suggestions for interesting places to see, railroad or otherwise. I grew up just south of Washington DC.

David #46 June 20, 2016, 2:52pm

What amazing modeling Huib!! You are a true craftsman. 1/4 scale modeling allows you to really showcase your talent. I hope lots of people are aware of your work and have seen your photos- perhaps thru the European model railway community and press.

We look forward to having you here. Please keep us updated so we can provide you with a warm welcome. David

huib #47 July 18, 2016, 5:25am

Hi David,

I have detailed out the itinerary for the trip and I'll be passing through Milliken on September 10 (a Saturday). Would that fit your schedule?

Take care!

Huib

David #48 July 19, 2016, 2:26am

Looking forward to seeing you on September the 10th. You can email me your specific time/directions, etc. as the date approaches. Travel safely!

David

Bob #49 September 15, 2016, 8:52pm

It was a indeed a great pleasure meeting you, Huib! Please forgive me for not getting a better photo of you during your visit. This photo was in the isolated Kayford aisle, taken with flash by my iPhone 6 camera. I meant to toss my camera bag in the car with my Canon 1DS3.



Enjoy the rest of your motorcycle trip across the USA, and have a safe drive!

huib #50 September 15, 2016, 11:27pm

Hi Bob,

Thanks for the photo. Could you mail me the full res at [huib\[at\]floodland.nl](mailto:huib@floodland.nl)?

I hope the video we shot is of some use to you.

Great meeting you all in person. All the best and hope to see youi again soon.

Take care,

Huib

Strummer #51 January 19, 2017, 9:41pm

Huib

After reading this thread (I love your work, BTW), I went to your "Flickr" account and looked at some of your photos, including those from your USA visit.

I live about 16 miles south of Newport, on the Central Oregon Coast, right off of Highway 101.

You must have passed right by my house!

I have always had an interest in German trains, and have managed recently to pick up a few items in O scale, so your work is of particular interest.

Am enjoying this site, as well as your pictures. You are indeed a craftsman of the first order...

Mark in Oregon

huib #52 January 20, 2017, 12:05pm

Hi Mark,

Thanks for your reply!

I drove the 101 all the way up to Seattle, so I must have passed by you. The Oregon coast was absolutely amazing.

There are quite some German models in O Scale around. Most of them are expensive finescale models, but Lenz, Brawa and MBW produce more affordable ones. The Dutch prototype I am following is quite rare in O Scale.

All the best from The Netherlands!

Huib

huib #53 January 29, 2017, 11:37am

Just in case any of you get bored from looking at big American trains, here is short video about small Dutch trains 😊

Take care!

Huib

Bob #54 January 29, 2017, 2:27pm

Beautiful video and spectacular modeling by a true master craftsman. Outstanding!

Craig #55 January 29, 2017, 2:34pm

Excellent!!! That is some beautiful modeling.

Thanks for sharing this Huib!!!

huib #56 January 29, 2017, 3:03pm

You guys just made me 😊

All the best!

Huib

David #57 January 30, 2017, 5:08am

Hi Huib-

What fun it must be to have a beautifully done RR! Love the photo angles, editing, etc. It shows your movie production training. And your professional craftsmanship is just amazing.

I wish our Europe travel plans for September had us coming closer so I could do a reciprocal visit!

Hopefully another time.

Thanks for sharing your work on our website. We are honored.

David

huib #58 January 30, 2017, 10:03am

Hi David,

Sure hop you'll make it over to our small country one day. I'd love to show you around.

Grtz!

Huib

Strummer #59 February 10, 2017, 8:24pm

Wow... there are so many aspects of your modeling that inspire; the trees, the backdrop (with the low-lying clouds/fog; great idea!) ,the barking dog...even the music adds to the scene.

Quite simply, as fine a layout as I've ever seen. Thank you.

Mark in Oregon