

Dean Ripple's B&O Monongah Branch May 20, 2023

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Dean Ripple's layout originated in 1991 as a 4'x6' that slid under a double bed in an apartment. Now in the basement of a detached home, it has grown to a 12'x16' West Virginia-based layout, circa 1950's, that features part of the run from Grafton to Charleston with a major central engine house and yard in the middle at Buckhannon and a connection with the Western Maryland in Elkins.



Dean (photo right) is part of the Anachronistic Era Operating Group and hosts regular operating sessions. Dean says he can keep about three operators busy at a time. Recently, he reports he has also done an interchange job with his son's switching layout two floors up in Dean's house.



This gorgeous layout is virtually complete. It features extensive scenery, including hundreds of trees and a variety of structures, some of them scratchbuilt (photo left). Dean has lately been working on new rolling stock.

All of the trains on the layout are led by brass locomotives, mainly Mikados and other similar smaller engines. The track and turnouts are

primarily Peco 100 resting on a cork roadbed. Control is by Digitrax DCC.



Here are some scenes from Dean's layout.

Manual turntable

Overview (Ripple Photo)



One of Dean's steam engines



Cutaway building on edge of layout with full interior detail.

Main street in Buckhannon (below)

