

Andrew Dodge's Colorado Midland



1. What is the name of your layout and its era? My current layout is a prototype model of the Colorado Midland in late September-early October 1897. The Midland operated with two districts: the first from Colorado Springs to Leadville, and the second district from Leadville to Grand Junction. Other than staging, my layout depicts the operations from Leadville over Hagerman Pass/Busk-Ivanhoe Tunnel to Basalt. While freeing itself from the control of the Santa Fe Railway, the Midland still moves a large amount of Santa Fe equipment as well as other carries in an evolving transcontinental transportation system.

2. What scale is your layout and what are the overall dimensions? The layout occupies one large room, which is 28'x28', and a smaller, adjoining room that is 18'x14', plus a double deck, shelf staging yard in



the furnace room. Because the layout depicts the Midland in Proto48 (fine scale O Scale), everything other than the figures are scratch built.

3. When did you start making your layout and what type of track do you use?

Construction of the project began in 2010 with the building of 13 brass locomotives before starting the layout itself in January 2013. All the track is hand laid on my own ties using Code 100 rail, which is the closest size available in O Scale to the Midland's 60 pound rail.



4. Operations and control? Operating crews would follow the Midland's modified timetable in three segmented sessions beginning in the very early morning and completing the third slot in the late evening. Because of the type of equipment available at the time and following the prototype,



almost all trains operating over the continental divide require helpers. This type of operation is easily, and effectively accomplished through the use of my NCE radio-controlled locomotives.



5. Future Plans: Due to a number of issues including the forlorn hope of finishing my last op session on the Midland, I have had to delay the conversion of my layout from a Colorado setting to one on the coast of Maine in the area near Belfast and Deer Island. The track plans are completed as well as my O scale Side-Wheeler and car float and its tug. The ships are mounted on dollies and will sail with the tide between ports.



The new railroad will be a prototype-free-lanced called the Central Maine Railway and will retain the same scale and time period as the Midland.