

# NEW TRACKS



**Mentor Definition: A Trusted Counselor or Guide**

**By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR**

## International Model Builders You May Want To Be Your Mentor

Awhile back, I joined some non US based Model Railroad and/or Railway groups to see what modelers outside the US were building, and if any of them might be mentors profiled in my “New Tracks” articles. I knew that these builders might not model in O Scale or S Scale because of lack of space. In many countries, homes are much smaller than in the US. But I believe we all might benefit by seeing what these modelers are building, and the skills, materials, and techniques they use.

While I live in the US, I have been fortunate to have traveled throughout Europe, Australia, the Far East, the Middle East, South America, and most of the Caribbean Islands. During my travels, I have been fortunate to meet some very skilled modelers, visit home layouts, and meet local manufacturers. In June 1993, I published an article about a Czechoslovakian manufacturer I had visited, ETS and its owner Gustav Taus.

My “New Tracks” articles are about skilled, dedicated, model railroad/railway builders and their modeling skills and techniques. Therefore, they can apply to modelers in any scale or gauge or particular country they may model. I once had a friend tell me “It does not matter what scale or gauge you model, but only the quality of your modeling.” Any skilled model builder can be a mentor, and any modeler can be in need of a mentor.

My articles are about builders, the great ones, the ones who will be great because they are trying, the ones in need of help, the young, old, disabled and healthy. The only requirement for me to want to talk to you and possibly include you in one of my articles is for you to be a skilled builder of models, or a person who wants to be a model builder, or a supplier, manufacturer or organization that can help modelers find mentors to work with. So with that said, my email address is: [JimKellow@oscaleresource.com](mailto:JimKellow@oscaleresource.com). I look forward to hearing from you and talking about model building and mentoring.

I found several International modelers I believe have the model building determination, confidence, and skills to be mentors to my readers. These are some of, but certainly not all, of the modelers I found. I think you will enjoy meeting them and hearing about their model building efforts. All of these modelers have traveled down “New Tracks” and I hope you will want to travel with them, at least part of the way.

### Individuals

#### Diger Rossel lives in the Netherlands

I included Diger because he is building a unique model railroad based on a sugar cane plantation and factory. His modeling reminded me of the sugar cane plantations and factories I have visited in South America,

the Middle East and the Caribbean. Here are photos of his layout Pabrik Gula Jairuba. The photos were taken by the photographer of Rail Magazine, Len de Vries. Please meet Diger Rossel.

I live in the Netherlands. As a child, I had a simple layout. Later, I built a layout in the attic of our home. In 2000, I built a modular Layout called “Ferien in Blumenfeld” (Holiday in Blumenfeld). In 2010, I built my second layout called “Jairuba Blue Bay Beach Railway” a tropical layout on the beach of my fantasy Island Jairuba. This layout won second place at OntraXS in Utrecht in 2012.



(OntraXS in Utrecht is a **Modeltrein Expo** at the Dutch Railway Museum. This year, it was held on March 9, 10 & 11, 2018)

*“Surrounded by their behemoth counterparts, the tiny engines of Europe's best model railways are on display during Modeltrein Expo. Model railway builders from all over Europe have been invited to display their creations at this event.*

*At the Modeltrein Expo exhibition over twenty model builders will be showcasing their high-quality model railways. The quality of the models on display and its unique setting has made Modeltrein Expo one of the world's top model railway events: Railway models constructed with great care and dedication and attention to detail.”*

That same year, I built my third layout that is presented here. This layout also won second place at OntraXS in Utrecht and first place with the kids award. Recently I won first place with my latest layout “The Barch Bergbahn” A layout with a rack-railway, based on the Schafbergbahn (A meter gauge cog Railway in Upper Austria and Salzburg) in Austria.

My first layout was built in HO. All the others were built in scale HOe. The reason that I am building in this scale is that it fits best with the theme. I have built everything myself. I learned to build from the model builder Jozef Brandl from Germany. He is a master in building layouts. The following deals entirely with the construction of my model Railway Pabrik Gula Jairuba.



## Pabrik Gula Jairuba

During OntraXS 2015, I presented my new model layout “Pabrik Gula Jairuba”. The layout outlines the image of a sugar cane plantation on Java Indonesia and the transport of sugar cane from the field to the sugar factory in a beautiful tropical landscape. The name of the layout is taken from Indonesia, “Pabrik” means factory and “Gula” means sugar. Jairuba is the fictional name of the tropical island and based on Jamaica and Aruba. The layout has a length of 200 cm and a visible depth of 50 cm. On the back is a shadow station along its entire length with a depth of 30 cm.



### The harvest of sugar cane on Java

Each factory on Java has (or had) its own rail lines from the factory to the surrounding fields. Most of the factories have a track width of 700 mm and some 600 mm. In the months of May or June, the factories start with the harvest of the sugar cane that continues day and night until everything is harvested somewhere in August. In the morning starts from the factory a steam locomotive with empty bogies to the sugar cane field. On the part of the field that already has been harvested, is a field track that connects to the rails. By using oxen (kabouwen) the bogies are pulled to the work area on the sugar cane field. The workers cut down the sugar cane stalks on a certain length hand rid them of the leaves. These are then loaded on the bogies. Once the bogies are full, they are pulled back to the track by the oxen. Finally, the steam locomotive pulls the loaded bogies to the sugar factory. Because the cargo is much too heavy for the little steam locomotive, there are workers on the front who throw sand on the tracks to prevent the steam locomotive from slipping. In the factory they unload the bogies, and the sugar cane is processed into cane sugar and the by-product molasses. The squeezed cane stalks are dried and then processed into bales. These bales are also called “bagas” or “ampas”. With the bales, the entire steam requirement of the factory is covered and also of the steam locomotives. Disadvantage of the



bales is that they only bring 1/3 of the fuel value compared to coal and need a lot of space. The tenders of the steam locomotives were modified with attachments and a steel sheet roof to take as many bales as possible.



### **Converting reality to model**

To get a correct transformation of reality to model, the first problem were the steam locomotives. I have chosen for the 1:87 HOe scale, or narrow-gauge railway. The steam locomotives are submitted by Roco and are completely rebuilt and made older with rust. The tender is rebuilt and filled with bales to be as original as possible. The diesel train is from Liliput and the bogies are of the brand minitrains. The bogies are rusted and filled with “sugar cane” made from dried grass.

### **The model layout**

The layout is made up of two parts. The left part has an opening on the right, and the right part an opening on the left. If both parts are merged, it is resulting in a layout with a length of 200 cm. The back wall of the layout is curved and plastered with a landscape poster of Faller. This landscape poster is submitted with palmtree photos from the internet. On the inside of the model layout there are two speakers for the sounds on the layout. On the left is the sound of the steam engines in the sugar factory, and on the right the sound of the workers in the field and the sound of the water through the rice fields. Finally, you hear in stereo the original nature sounds from Java Indonesia. The lighting consists of two fluorescent tubes of 90 cm at the front and four power leds in the ceiling of the layout. In this way, the lighting looks very sunny and gives the right light temperature for a tropical landscape.



## The track plan

The layout is so arranged that the factory is on the left with the sidings and locomotive shed and the sugar cane field and the rice fields on the right side. On the right side and on the left side are holes in the back wall. Seen from the right, the track comes out between the trees and leads along the front to the left across a railway crossing and continues on the terrain of the sugar factory. On the terrain, the track splits itself to various sides and finally disappears with two tracks between the trees to the shadow station on the back. The outer track goes to the right side again, and the inner track goes to a third hole in the back wall to the sugar cane field. On the tracks of the sugar factory can be shunted with the bogies and the steam locomotives.

## The buildings

To get a good picture of the colonial sugar factories in Java, I have used the baukasten system from Auhagen. First the walls were painted in white. With the proper composition of the buildings and the walls I made a beautiful factory. The roof plates are made of aluminium packaging material. They are all stuck on the roof piece by piece. With paint powders from Anita decor the roof sheets are rusted. Next to the factory is a converted oil storage tank of Kibri which serves as a molasses storage tank. Also full with rust. The loco shed also comes from Auhagen and looks the same as the factory. There is also a converted barn from Busch and a small cottage at the level crossing by Langmesser. The cabin at the ricefields is made with wooden skewers and a roof of real palm leaf remains.

## The palm trees

On a sheet of A4 paper, I draw multiple leaves and copied this several times. After that, I started to cut all the leaves out of the copied sheets. Each leaf is folded and trimmed. Many cuts for a palm leaf and less cuts





for a banana leaf. The leaves are then pasted on a thread of 20 cm length. The leaves were then bundled with 15 pieces to a palmtree. To mimic the trunk, I use Dash clay and masking tape. The leaves are then curved in the shape of a palm tree and sprayed in a green color. The trunk is painted brown. I ended up with 50 palm trees and banana trees made in different heights. Through the internet, I have purchased some very nice palm trees from the Model tree shop in England. The most beautiful trees are placed in the foreground.



### **The sugar cane field**

For the sugar cane field, I used a plastic plant, the asparagus. The ends of this plant were well suited for mimicking the sugar cane. The ends were cut on a length of 6 cm. After that they were painted in a green color. These cane stems I have planted on the model layout. When I was done, there were 1200 cane stams on the layout. The sugar cane field now gives a picture of densely growing sugar cane stems. The sugar cane field is constructed in such way that there is still a great deal to the left that needs to be harvested. On the harvested part of the field are still some remainings of the sugar cane. Also you can see the fieldtrack and some bogies with oxen.

### **The soil and the plants**

The entire layout has been given a top layer of real sand. This sand comes from the garden and is dried. The dried sand was sifted with a tea strainer. The fine sand is mixed with wood glue to a paste. This paste is applied in a thin layer on the model layout and sprinkled with sieved sand. Also the road is created in this way and smooth coated. The road is then equipped with scratches to look like a bad surface and got a surface with paint. After that, the ground was partly painted with powder paint to imitate oil traces and rust signs. The grass comes from Heki in various colors. Some trees are by Anita decor. The bushes are of Silhouette and Mininatur. I also used dried weeds from the garden. Here and there are also ferns and some plastic plants. Altogether, it gives a good picture of nature in Java Indonesia. The ricefields (sawa's) are made with hundreds of small





clumps of grass. These too are all planted piece by piece. For the water I used a kind of jelly of MBZ. The water is used in the rice fields and in the channel. It remains smooth and looks very realistic.

### The figures and vehicles

Finally, there still had to come life on the model layout. Most figures come from the brand Preiser. Since I needed much tinted persons, I was looking for the right figures. From many packages, I only could use one or two figures out of six. Fortunately, I found enough people to bring the model layout to life. In the trees and on the roofs are monkeys and birds. There are swimming geese, there are chickens, cats and dogs for an even more



*Claudio, Foster, Denilson, Paulo, Celso, Ademir ( me )*  
natural finish of the layout. Since there are no tuk tuks (three wheelers) existing in model, I used Piaggio tricycles of the brand Busch. There are mopeds and motorcycles by Preiser and Noch and a converted bike from Artitec to a rickshaw.

## **Finally**

After a construction time of 18 months, there was the premiere of Pabrik Gula Jairuba during OntraXS 2015 in the railway museum in Utrecht. After three days, the model layout reached the first place in the category OntraXS kids award and second place in the category OntraXS award. If you feel I can help you with your modeling please contact me by e-mail at [Diger.Rossel@sscaleresource.com](mailto:Diger.Rossel@sscaleresource.com)