

(Download) How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad

How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad

Jack Verducci

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Jack Verducci : How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Good Collection of Great How-To ArticlesBy Paul D. RaceSeveral books listed on will tell you what it takes to get a railroad running in your back yard. This book gives you some ideas for getting an attractive, visually balanced, reliable railroad running. Jack Verducci is one of the most respected names in Garden Railroading. He has published many of the "definitive" articles on garden railroad landscaping issues (and many other kinds of articles besides). Reprints of Jack's articles are always in high demand. A few have already been reprinted along with reprints from other authors in the collection Garden Railroading: Getting Started in the Hobby.For this book Kalmbach has simply collected several of Jack's most popular and most useful Garden Railway articles (with a new introduction that beginners will find very helpful). They have also included bits of other articles that they haven't published in entirety, but which you will find helpful. Yes, the book has only 95 pages of content, but there are hundreds of great ideas, tips, and examples shoehorned into this small package.Unfortunately, readers expecting a single "narrative" that will take them from total ignorance to a complete garden railroad in many simple steps will be disappointed. In fact, the book leaves out a few things it would be helpful to know, or that you would expect to be there based on the table of contents. In addition, several topics that are included could benefit from more detailed step-by-step instructions.Fortunately, these are minor problems compared to overall quality of the book's content. Most of the articles in this book are among the best ever written on the various subjects; just having them together in one place (uninterrupted by advertisments) is worth the price of the book to

anyone seriously thinking about building a garden railroad. Topics that are addressed (and generally illustrated with fine illustrations) include:- Basic Large-Scale track plans- Choosing the right place for your railroad- Staking out the future right-of-way- Perspective (designing your garden railway landscaping so it gives the best views)- Planning for and executing a railroad with vertical interest- Building "switchbacks" (right-of-ways on which short trains go back-and-forth through a series of turnouts to reach higher ground in limited space)- Painting backdrops- Reverse loops- Trestles- Using rocks of all kinds- Laying track (especially on fine crushed gravel roadbed)- Structure placement and landscaping- Water feature (pond, stream and waterfall) design and construction- Maintenance

In addition, most of the photographs are of railroads that Jack has built. So they illustrate Jack's excellent landscaping skills, and above all, his aesthetic sensibilities. Jack's introduction stresses the importance of each railroad conforming to a basic vision, or as Jack calls it, a "theme." Beyond that, Jack's landscapes look like they belong in their settings; his railroads look like they belong in the landscapes; and his structures, bridges, and accessories are appropriate for the setting and for the railroad. This book is a great companion volume to Marc Horowitz and Pat Hayward's *Gorgeous Garden Railways*, another book that is strong on aesthetics (although it is silent on methodology).

How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad won't tell you everything you need to know, but it will get you started off right, and it will also start you thinking about a lot of possibilities that would not have occurred to you otherwise.

Paul Race, editor, *Family Garden Trains*

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The perfect "how to" introduction to creating a model railroading set-up in any kind of backyard garden or landscape

By Midwest Book Review

Enhanced with more than 185 photos and diagrams, *How To Design And Build Your Garden Railroad* is the perfect "how to" introduction to creating a model railroading set-up in any kind of backyard garden or landscape. Detailed, methodical, comprehensive directions are provided for every aspect of a project beginning with the proper selection of where to build an outdoor model railroad system, what's needed and how to get started, preparing the groundwork (including plants and foliage), laying the track, dealing with problems, adding drama to the set up, positioning structures (building trestles for outdoor use), water feature designs with respect to ponds, waterfalls and streams, and generally maintaining the railway. Of added value is a suppliers list that will prove especially useful for the novice model railroading hobbyist. If you are planning an outdoor railway system for your garden or landscape, then give a very careful reading to Jack Verducci's *How To Design And Build Your Garden Railroad*!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Almost perfect

By K. Boucher

How to Design and Build Your Garden Railroad by Jack Verducci is a definite must read for garden railway fans. Mr Verducci writes in a pleasant and easy to read/understand manner. He gives good examples and provides excellent illustrations and photographs. The only drawback I see is I wish the book were a bit more detailed. I would appreciate, for example, more information on laying home made track rather than store bought variety. Living in areas with frost, it would have been nice to see more suggestions that pertain directly to the problems of frost heave/track expansion/contraction. However, that being said I still feel the book is well worth reading!

Noted enthusiast Jack Verducci gives the step by step instructions to produce the garden railroad of your dreams. 96 color pages, many photos, a great reference for the hobbyist or professional alike.