

New Transfer table and Siding Modules

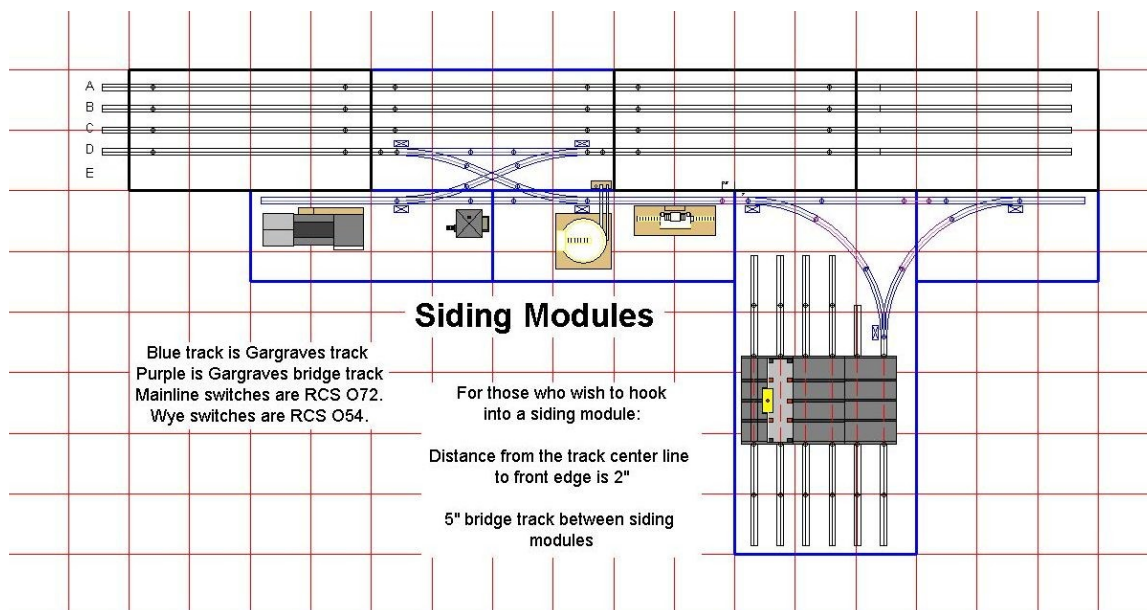
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Overview

Adrian, Bob, and I built a set of siding modules that hook up to our club main 4 line. Our goal was to have fun, build some modules that allow adding fully scened operating siding accessories, and to utilize Adrian's transfer table. We also wanted to allow adding new modules to the siding so others can build siding modules and hook them up.

We started by building a "transition module" which allows switching trains off of the main track 4 onto the siding modules. The transition module is a standard ABCD module, with 2 RCS O72 turnouts on main track 4 that are connected to a crossover. This allows trains to enter/exit in both east and west directions off of main track 4. Due to the length needed for these two O72 turnouts, we need special 7" bridge tracks for track 4 on this transition module. All the other tracks on this module use standard 10" bridge tracks.

Attached to this transition module are two 18" x 4' modules that "hook up" to the crossover and provide a double crossover switch onto the siding line. From either of these modules, we can hook up any new siding modules we want to build based on the standards described in this article. We welcome members to build new modules that hook into our siding!



Module Standard

We used the club building standards for our new modules, but we chose to use Gargraves track along with RCS turnouts to give a more realistic look and smoother operation. The RCS turnouts are excellent and I recommend the club use these whenever possible. They seem much better than any Lionel switch I've played with.

The siding track sits 2 inches from the front edge of the siding module to the center rail. The siding

track ends 2.5" from the module edges, thus creating a 5" bridge track. All Gargraves track.

Wiring Standard

Our modules use 6 position interlocking connectors from Radio Shack (part numbers 274-236 and 274-226). We tried these instead of Jones plugs to reduce cost and to make wiring easier. While these connectors are cheaper, they are about the same pain to solder.

Each module should have a wiring harness with a male plug on the right side (when facing out from the back side of the module), and a female plug on the left side.

We're using standard club 18 gauge wiring for our modules.

Here is the mapping we used for our wiring harness:

Pin Number	Function	Wire Color
1	Track Power	Brown
2	Low Voltage Accessory	Blue
3	High Voltage Accessory	White
4	Common Ground	Black
5	Turnout Power	Green

The siding transition module also provides a connector to hook the sidings up to mainline power. The following mapping was used for hooking up to mainline power:

Siding Pin	Function	Club Pin in 6 Prong Jones Plug
1	Track Power (main line 4)	1
2	Low Voltage Accessory	3
3	High Voltage Accessory	4
4	Common Ground	5
5	Turnout Power	6

Additionally, we have built a separate power box to power just the sidings. In the works is a switch-box that will allow selecting either club power or separate power for each function (track, low acc, high acc, and turnout).

The common ground always flows into the siding modules allowing propagation of the TMCC signal. To do this, I made sure the separate power box is in phase with the club power box.

Conclusion

We welcome other members to build siding modules that hook up to these. Our goal is to have fun, do some interesting siding operations, and provide some hi-rail feel to the club layout.