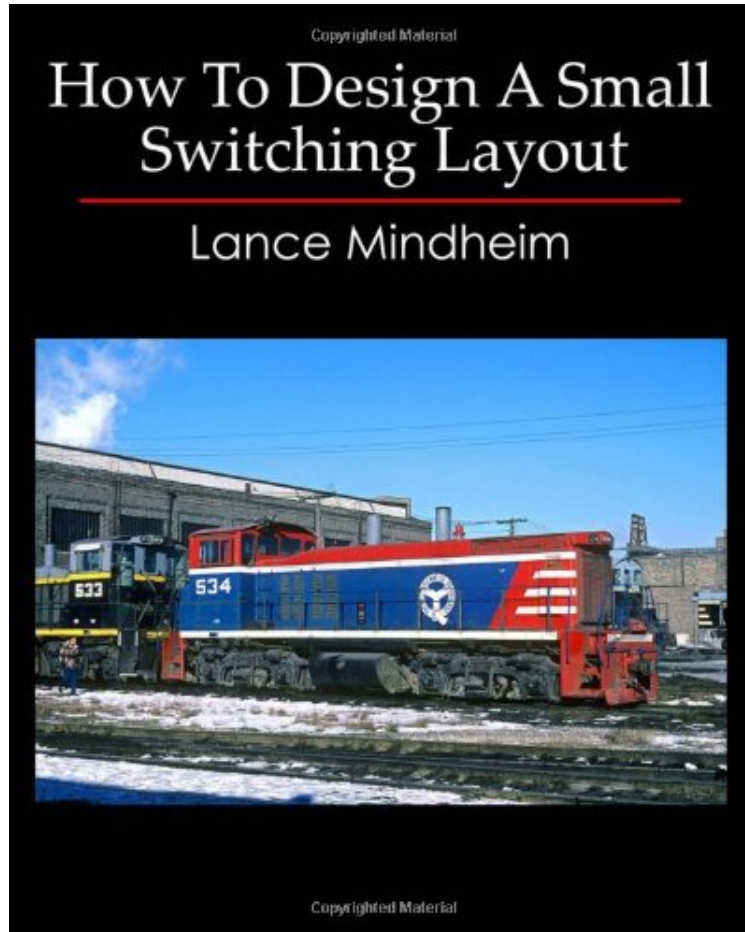


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month of web searches. As I read, I quickly came to understand why some layouts look and "feel" good and why the prototype and Mindheim use certain track configurations. Even if you have your own layout, you'll likely gain a greater understanding of your own and your colleagues' layouts and why their aesthetics and operation work the way they do, after having read this book. Although "How to Design" is a bit longer than Mindheim's previous books, it still benefits from an efficiency of language that makes a seemingly-opaque topic quite clear. This book is a very good value. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Makes sense where the other books make suggestions. By William Castello. Wow. I held off on buying this book for a long time because I had sooo many layout planning books, track plan books etc. Am I ever glad I bought it! This is the first book on planning I have read that actually shows you how to plan a model railroad. Most of the other books have great ideas, but they fall short in actually showing you how to get to the nitty-gritty of figuring out what goes where and why. The first section Lance has you thinking about what you want, and what you can really afford (in time and money, not just \$\$). You also make some strategic decisions. This is where all the others books stop. Lance goes further and then shows you how to tie all these noble, strategic ideas into a real plan. How and where to put the scenery only zones (an idea he champions here, but others have also mentioned before), the trackage and the industries. Another idea I found very helpful was using car spots instead of industries to determine the operating potential of an industry area. Very cool concept and had me totally rewriting my plan. This book is a must have on any model railroader's shelf. If you are anywhere near planning or designing your pike, this is your first stop. I won't say only, because authors like Koester and Armstrong also have very good ideas and suggestions that you need to consider. Where this book shines is how it ties it all together. Don't let the title fool you, this is not just for small layout's either.

A step by step guide to designing the most versatile of all model railroad types. Learn how to: set priorities, pick the best bench work shape, design secondary track, set scenery zones, choose the best industries, and more! Two bonus track plans included. Concepts can be applied to layouts of all sizes.