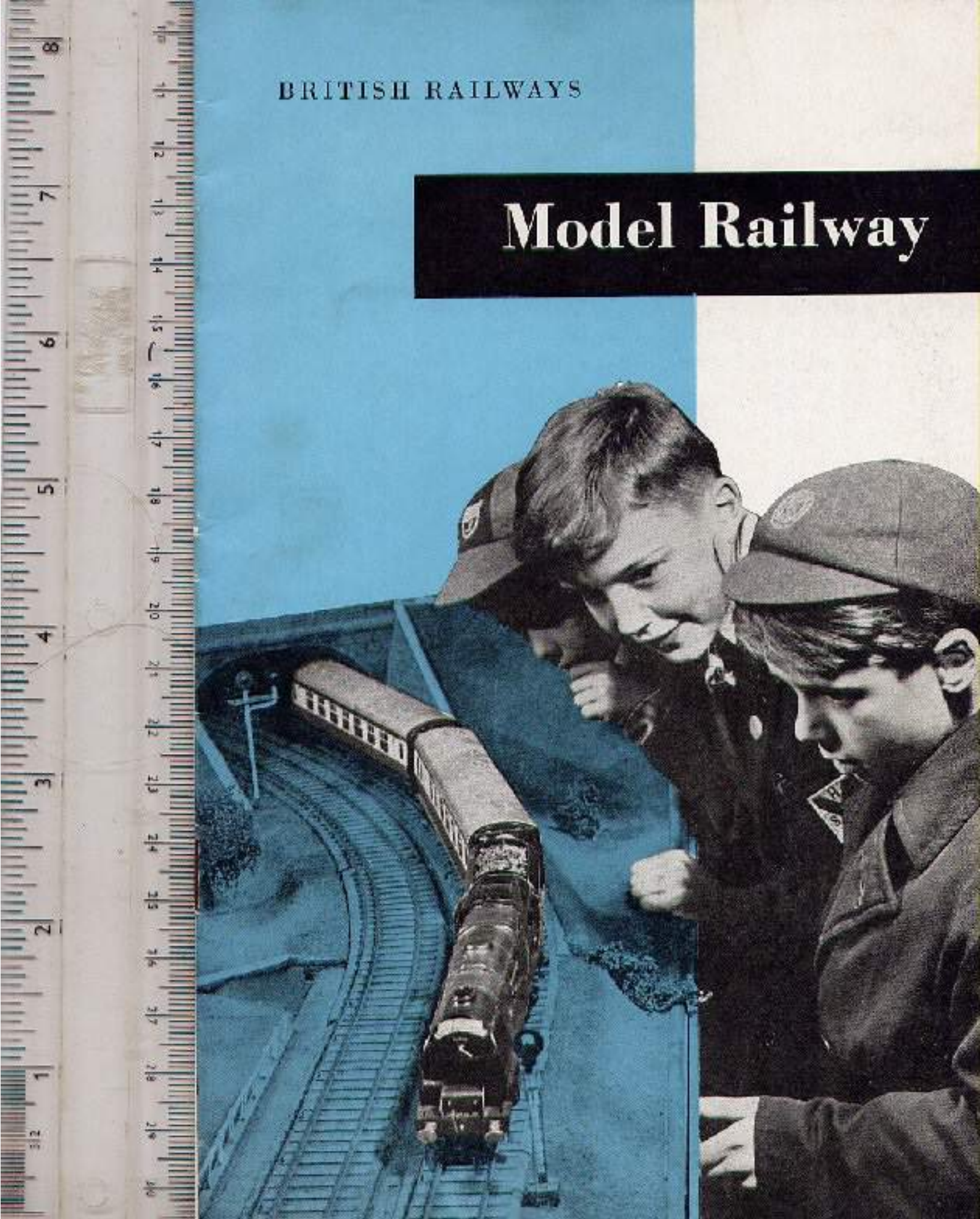
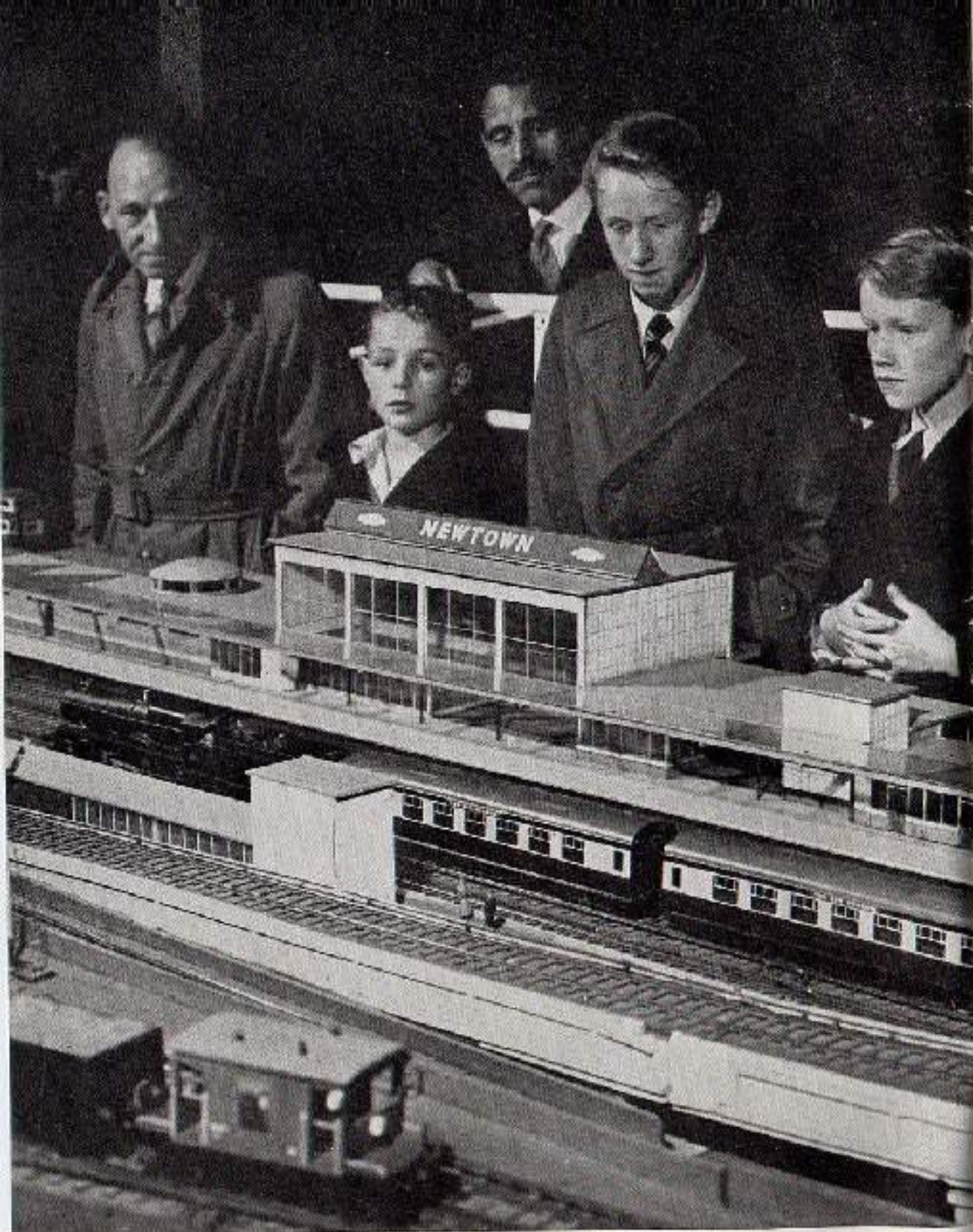


BRITISH RAILWAYS

Model Railway





What it's all about...

The purpose of the model railway is to show – in miniature – some of the modern carriages, locomotives and equipment that are in use on British Railways today. It was assembled in 1948 by model experts in the B.R. publicity department; the publicity people also arrange for its exhibition in many centres throughout Great Britain, and operate it on the spot.

In a year, nearly a quarter of a million people of all ages and nations, some of them quite famous, visit the model railway. They see the trains run along the many tracks, calling at the station, shunting in the yard, and running under bridges and tunnels. Model road vehicles, houses, farms, animals, trees, petrol stations and the like add to the illusion of reality.

If you have not seen the model railway don't miss the opportunity when it comes your way. If you have already seen it, no doubt you will look forward to repeating the pleasure.

'Gosh! Wish I had a station like that on my model railway!'

Layout

Including the stand, the entire model measures 40 ft by 21 ft. Tracks and other equipment stand on 24 table sections which are mounted on adjustable legs normally 2 ft 9 in high.

The complete model can be put up or taken down quickly and conveniently. Of special interest to model-makers is the use of old blankets sprayed with paint; this material on the embankments and in the surrounding scenery presents a fair imitation of grass. Because of its flexibility, it is easy to put packing under the material to produce a variety of contours. The joints in the material are masked by small strips fashioned to resemble stone drainage.

Track

The tracks cover in all about 600 ft. From Newtown station round the model and back again represents, in scale, about one mile. The track was specially designed to be as nearly as possible identical to full-sized railway track - a rarity on model railways. The design and construction of the track enable the model trains to run smoothly and with comparatively few mishaps. (Note to model-makers - the track is 'fine-scale'.)

The electrified rails are outside, and a little higher than, the running rails, to take the locomotive 'shoe' conductors.

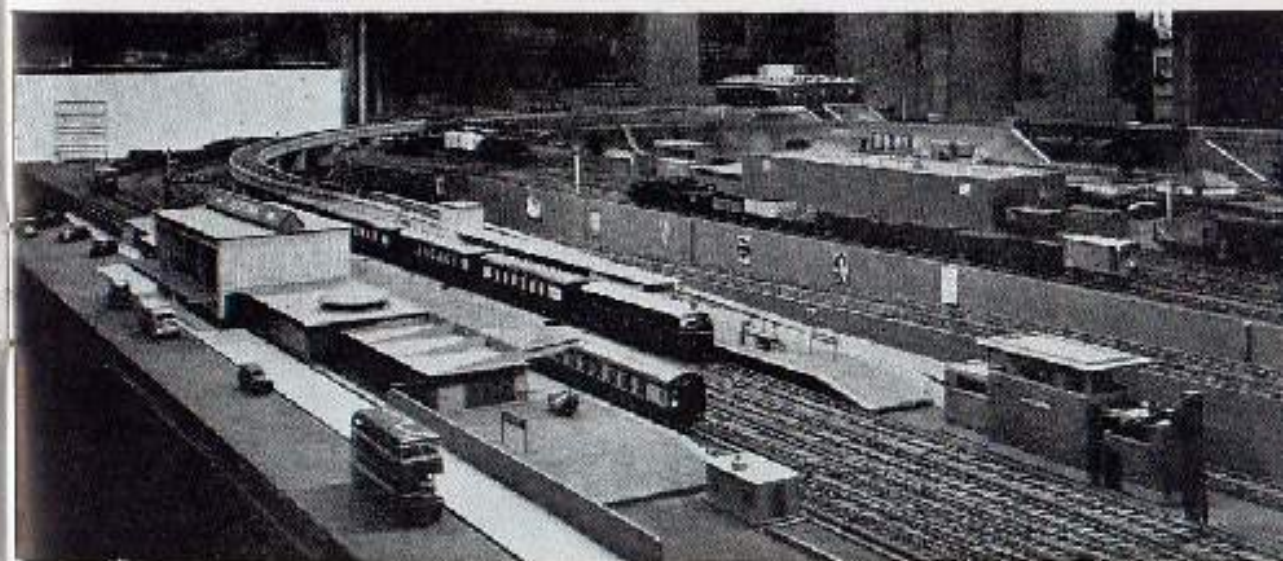
The rails are of the latest standard flat-bottom type; in 18-inch lengths, each represents in scale about 65 ft. They are secured to metal rail plates and sleepers which, in turn, are fastened to the base, the base being fixed to the tables. The whole design thus gives the appearance of correctly ballasted track.

One interesting feature is that the rail joints are slightly opened, so that when trains are running they sound like the real thing.

Gradients on the model vary between one in forty and one in a hundred. Curves vary in radius between about five and six feet.

Signals

The layout is signalled with colour-light and semaphore signals. The semaphore signals are operated by miniature levers mounted on the control panels.



Top: A Pullman train behind a diesel-electric locomotive

Bottom: Newtown station, with the locomotive depot in the background. Compare this picture with the diagram on pages 8 and 9