

OPERATIONS 101

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OPERATIONS 101

- **Assumptions**
- Your track is laid, and your wiring is complete
- You may be starting to do scenery
- You have power and enough throttles in place
- You have structures or cards representing structures in place
- You are at a point where you want to do more than just run trains

OPERATIONS 101

- **What do you want your railroad to do?**
- What do you want to do – switching, classification, etc.
- What Industries /locations do you want to switch
- How many/what kind of trains do you want to run
switch jobs,
through freight
passenger service

OPERATIONS 101

- **Pre Op Session Planning/Preparation**
- Have a track schematic showing towns, switching locations, etc.
- Have enough thottles (yours and guest's)
- Which locomotive(s) are you using?
- Assign crews. Engineer - conductor/brakeman
- Plan your train movements
- Create Train orders – Use a very simple Switch list for first sessions (KISS)
- Crew briefing
- Have uncoupling aids available – skewers, magnets, etc at each switching location

OPERATIONS 101

Pre Op Session Maintenance

- Ensure cars are weighted properly
 - **HO Gauge** Initial weight of 1 ounce plus 1/2 oz per inch of car length.
 - **O Gauge** Initial weight of 5 oz plus 1 oz per inch of car length
 - **N Gauge** initial weight of 1/2 ounce plus .15 ounces per inch of car length
 - A-Line weights – 1/4 oz, 1/2 oz, sheet lead
 - Bolts (Branchline)

OPERATIONS 101

- **Pre Op Session Maintenance**
- Clean tracks and switch points
- Clean locomotive wheels
- Clean and lubricate car wheels (oil, router)
- Make sure couplers are at proper height and move freely –
 - Kadee coupler gauge – height and pipe clearance
 - Kadee washers
 - Kadee coupler pliers
 - Lubricate with graphite