

Southern Railway System

Central Georgia – United States

It's summer 1966! The Southern Railway System acquired the Central of Georgia in 1963 and operations are now starting to be dominated by Southern Railway colours. Steam engines have long since been relegated to the annals of history – although a Light Mikado (SOU4501) has been leased and restored to mainline service for passenger excursions drawing quite a crowd to the local station. Second generation diesel locomotives have supplanted smoky and less efficient first-generation diesels. This moderately busy branch line between Americus and Vidalia sees 2 return trains a day when operating.

Layout Notes: This HO scale (1:87) model railroad, this recreation of historical past – it's not a train set – started its life six years ago and represents the acquired and still developing skills of one person. It's "portable" and is constructed in eight sections that are stored and transported in three purpose-built shipping crates. Construction is of 9mm plywood and 50mm, environmentally friendly, extruded insulation foam. Layout lighting uses led strip to reduce weight, UV light and energy consumption. All trackwork is Peco Code 83 incorporating easements and super elevation on all curves.

The layout is operated using North Coast Engineering (NCE) DCC and all switches use DCC Concepts DigitalIP motors and Gaugemaster Autofrogs. There are no control panels on the layout. Instead it is switched using either NCE macros or the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) which allows computer and mobile phone control. Train and freight car movement is scheduled through the Operations capability of JMRI. Each piece of rolling stock is unique – there are no two the same – and all Southern Railway locomotives are sound equipped. The maintenance of way team is always busy scheming and looking at ways to improve operational efficiency. Operating switch stands were added and recently passing loops have been upgraded to CTC control.

Model Railroading is art. It's uses a mixture of engineering, technology and imagination to recreate the real world in miniature form – past, present and sometimes future. Enjoy and please ask questions!

The Layout at a glance

Name: Southern Railway

Scale: HO (1:87.1)

Size: 2.4m x 3.6m (8' x 12')

Theme: Branch line

Locale: Georgia USA

Era: Summer 1965

Style: Sectional /Duck-under

Mainline run: 11.5 m (38')

Minimum radius: 500mm (19.9")

Minimum turnout: Mainline no. 8, Sidings no. 6

Maximum gradient: Zero

Benchwork: Sectional, 9mm Plywood and 50mm air blown extruded foam insulation

Height: 1,350mm (53")

Roadbed: Woodland Scenics foam track bed
(mainline only)

Track: Peco Code 83 throughout, easements and super elevation on all curves

Signals: CR Signals (common -ve) with NCE Light-its (common +ve)

Scenery: Papier Mâché over 50 mm (2") air blown insulation foam

Lighting: 24V, 196 leds/m, 2,300 lumens/m,
4000-4200k colour temperature

Backdrop: Nil

Passing siding length: 10 x 40' Cars

Control: NCE SB5, Power Cab and CB06p, JMRI with NCE USB Interface, DCC Concepts Cobalt Digital IP Switch Motors. NCE Light-its for signal operation

Track Plan

