



This is an old-time layout which incorporates several interesting features. The most challenging is the helix curve around the mountain, where the train passes over itself. This not only gives you a cool over/under effect, but it captures the rugged flavor of early railroads clawing their way through the mountains to open up the country. This will require a relatively steep grade, but since 1860s trains were short and pulled by little 4-4-0 locomotives, you shouldn't have trouble operating it. You'll want to be sure to use RailKing engines with Proto-Sound 2, so that you have the speed control, otherwise you might have some runaway trains!

Another important detail is the arrangement of track switches up by the town. This arrangement is called a "wye" because it resembles the letter "Y." It's important because a wye enables you to turn trains around, so they can face either direction. It's sort of like backing your car into a driveway to change directions on a street. A wye can be a helpful addition to all sorts of track plans and the one shown here is about as compact as you can build.

To keep the trains busy, there is also a mine on the side of the mountain, served by the siding in the lower right corner. The water tank makes sure the trains don't get stuck out in the wilderness, miles from

town. And the track from the bottom of the wye passes through a tunnel in the mountain, which is always a popular sight with visitors.

If you want to represent the Wild West, you can paint your scenery in desert shades of orange and brown, with little cacti and tumbleweeds. For a Civil War scene, cover the mountains with pine trees, and fill the fields with grass, farm crops, and soldiers. In the West, the mine might be producing gold or silver, in the Civil War, it's probably digging coal.

#### NUMBER DESCRIPTION

- (24) MTH 40-1002 O-31 curve
- (6) MTH 40-1019 30 in straight
- (3) MTH 40-1005 O31 lefthand switch
- (14) MTH 40-1001 10 inch straight
- (2) MTH 40-1004 O31 righthand switch
- (5) MTH 40-1012 5.5 inch half straight
- (3) MTH 40-1042 O42 curve
- (4) MTH 40-1018 3.5 in straight
- (4) MTH 40-1017 4.25 in straight
- (2) MTH 40-1022 O-31 half curve
- (2) MTH 40-1016 5.0 in straight
- (1) MTH 30-9024 rowhouse
- (1) MTH 30-9045 rowhouse
- (1) MTH 30-9057 country church
- (1) MTH 30-9047 country house
- (2) MTH 30-11028 water tower