

Andrew's Musings Part 6

The last instalment talked about the Swiss corner dogbone, with the option of altering the scene to a hydro-electric dam. As mentioned, this provided another "R4 / R5 + joiners" corner for exhibitions with a handy way of getting trains between the inside and outside lines.

I was going to move onto discussing my next module, being a city scene, but I realised I missed a module in the making. By creating my own 90 degree corner, it meant we had a 5th corner available at exhibitions. The bonus of this is you can then throw in an inverse corner which then allows for an L – shaped oval layout. This has its uses in reducing the space used up in the middle of a big oval layout and secondly provides for a more interesting design, where the trains are not just going down 4 straight sides, but have an additional turn to take the train along "another dimension". I had been thinking of an inverse curve ever since Garry Anderson pointed out that a 90 degree (3 x R4 / R5 extending out by 94mm each side) inverse matched exactly with the other corners (being the 188 joiners, 3 x R4 / R5 and the other 188 joiners) when put together in a layout. As a person who loves mountains, tunnels and bridges, once again I went down the Swiss route with a tunnel which features avalanche protection. Simple but effective.

Perhaps the special thing for me is watching a train going through the tunnel, with the front heading out at 90 degrees, while the tail is still to head through the mountain. However I must confess, like all my modules this one still needs to be finished off as well. The plan is to add a forest of trees and other vegetation. I have all of this, so it is just waiting for me to get a train room back so I can unpack the modules and work on them. When I get the time . . . however from what I hear retirement is even busier, so perhaps I need to get onto this before 15 more years pass me by.

