Quick ...

What are the top 3 reasons why you aren’t enjoying an operating railroad at home?
1. Not enough time.
2. Not enough space.
3. Not enough $$$$.

Introducing the “Tri-R Railroad,” a practical solution to all three excuses.

It won’t win any awards, or ever grace the pages of Great Model Railroads, or be the feature layout in any of the other modeling magazines, but it is a railroad you can enjoy at home in little time, in little space and with little funds.

Built with KATO UNITRACK, the Tri-R can be fully assembled in less than twenty minutes. That’s less time than it takes to watch a rerun of Friends! The Tri-R can be used as a temporary set-up or a permanant layout. The track sections snap together quickly and easily, and they stay together throughout operation. The power connection is “plug & play” and the power-routing turnout is already wired for electrical operation, allowing you to get to the fun of running your equipment right away.

At only 2’ 3” X 4’ 0”, the Tri-R is smaller than some living room coffee tables. As a matter of fact, you might want to build this layout into a glass-top coffee table and make it the centerpiece of the living room! (Please be sure to use safety glass.) This small-sized railroad can easily fit into the corner of any room in the house and is ideally suited for smaller apartments or studios.

Using the F3 Train Set with UNITRACK as its cornerstone, the Tri-R requires only 19 additional pieces of UNITRACK to be complete, as drawn above. Using any suitable surface (plywood, 2” foam insulation, homasote, an old luan door -- check the lumber yard as they often have damaged or blemished doors for sale at very low price), your investment for track and models is less than $275. Add to it a suitable power pack and you can be enjoying a fully operating N scale railroad for less than $325!!!

Of course, you may also want to add scenery and structures and other elements to make your railroad more realistic, but these things can be added at any time, as your time and budget allow.

If you do want to think about including some structures on the layout, KATO offers several excellent choices. Some of our structures are pre-built, while others are easy snap-together kits. The #23-315 Station & Signal Tower kit would be an ideal selection adjacent to the 15-degree crossing. One of our station structures or platforms would be suitable along the spur track, while one of our #23-407 Denny’s Restaurant would fit in nicely just beyond the road crossing.

With its 15-degree crossing, double-track mainline and spur track, the Tri-R has the appearance of a larger railroad even though it is operating only one train! The F3 locomotive, freight cars and caboose included in the Train Set fit perfectly into this little pike. This layout would also be ideally suited for passenger-oriented service with one of our N scale RDC model sets, or a similar little trolley-type unit.

If a slightly larger table size is used, the Tri-R could easily be expanded with the addition of another mainline and more spur tracks.

Please note that it is not necessary to devote time and effort to affixing the individual track sections to the work surface. Naturally, you can do this if you want to, and it is recommended if you do intend to transport or move the layout regularly. If either of these apply to you, please see the FAQ on this topic that appears in the Frequently Asked Question portion of our web site.

Enjoy the Tri-R Railroad!
Contents of F3 Train Set with UNITRACK

**#106-0011** Locomotive and Caboose lettered for Santa Fe

**#106-0012** Locomotive and Caboose lettered for Union Pacific

(4) #20-000 248mm Straight Track, (1) #20-020 124mm Straight Track, (1) #20-021 124mm Road Crossing Track, (1) #20-040 62mm Straight Track, (1) #20-041 62mm Feeder Track, (8) #20-100 R282-45 Curved Track, (1) Rerailer, (1) Road Crossing Center Section (use to join two Road Crossings), (1) Adapter Cord (to simplify connection between Feeder Track power cord and your power pack), (6) Replacement Unijoiners, (1) F3 Locomotive, (1) Tank Car, (2) Covered Hoppers, (1) Caboose

Please Note: The layout can also be built entirely from packaged track, without the purchase of F3 Train Set with UNITRACK. Also, some track is sold only in multi-piece packages; you may have some pieces left-over after assembling layout.