“Horvath’s Hot Spots”

Because the diverging line “breaks away” from the main line at a pretty steep angle, #4 turnouts can cause short wheelbase and/or underweight locomotives and rolling stock to sometimes derail as they pass over the turnout. The diverging line of the #6 turnout, on the other hand, moves away from the main line at a more gentle rate. As a result, the use of a #6 turnout may be the better choice for your operations. Below are some drawings of some interesting applications using the #20-202/203 #6 Turnout with the #20-210 Double Crossover.

The “overall length” of each drawing is as drawn. This is generally very short for any operation other than running a locomotive around to couple to other end of train. All of these arrangements could be extended by inserting equal length of straight track to both lines just before the Double Crossover.

1. Overall length approximately 39-1/4”

2. Overall length approximately 36-3/4”

3. Overall length approximately 37-1/2”

4. Overall length approximately 39-1/2”

With appreciation to T. Horvath