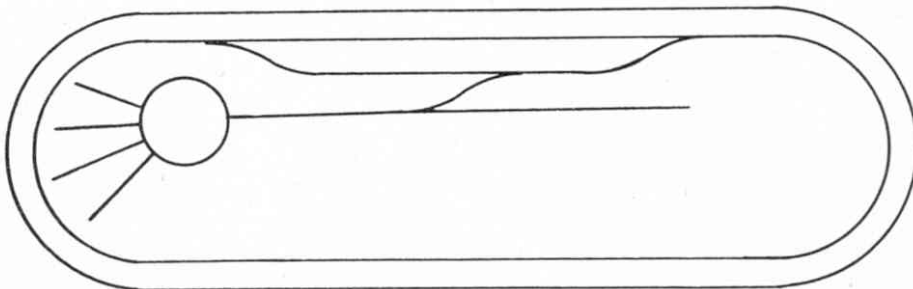


THOSE of you who visited the National Models Show in the Horticultural Hall in August will no doubt have noticed the Tri-ang Hornby layout and stand, which displayed most of the models and products of Rovex Scale Models Ltd. Even the scenery was from the Tri-ang Hornby range, and the whole display aroused a great deal of interest. The plan was basically very simple, consisting of a station at the front of a double track oval, rising at both ends to a second higher level station at the back. Both stations were extremely simple in design, and their initial cost would be quite modest. The baseboard too was small enough, for most houses where space is always at a high premium.

The four different series of products made by Rovex Scale Models—Tri-ang Hornby, Model-land, King Size Colourings, and Minix Cars provide almost unlimited scope in layout planning. All are equally important for giving the model railway that certain 'completeness', especially where small layouts are concerned. With small and simple projects of the sort shown at the exhibition, the



This track plan of the railway layout shows its basic simplicity, yet the development potential is enormous

treatment of the layout and the surrounding scenery is more important than that for larger layouts, where detail can often pass unnoticed. This particular layout emphasised the greatly increased interest and variety that can be provided by a Minic Motorway system built into the scenery surrounding the layout. In effect, one achieves two operating systems on the one baseboard!

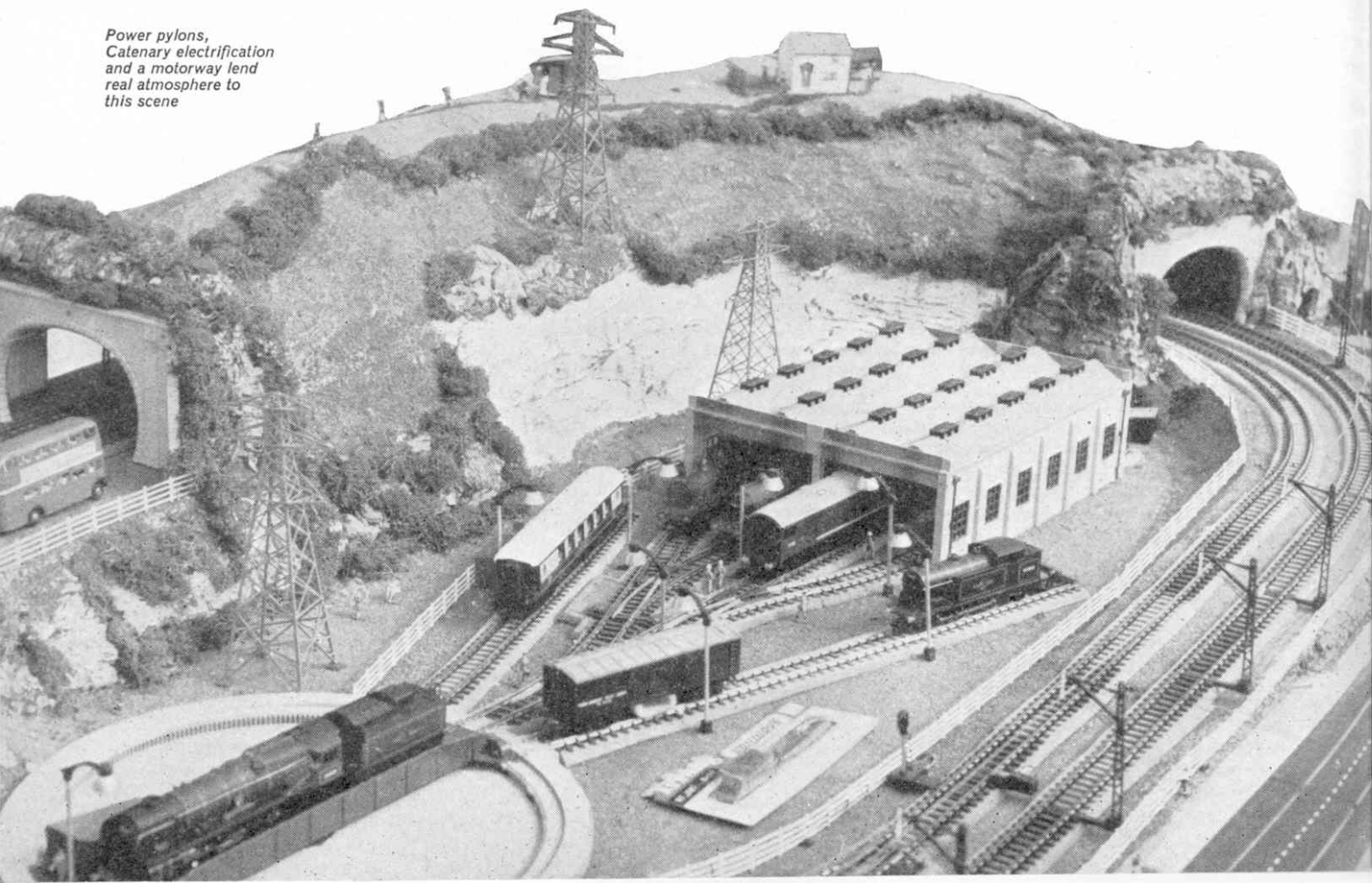
The design of both the railway and the motorway system was purposely kept simple to illustrate how such a layout can be built at comparatively modest cost, and yet retain considerable interest by virtue of the concentration of a wide variety of equipment. The sketch plan reproduced on this page shows the track

arrangement of the lower station, which has a loop for holding an additional train, or alternatively for allowing shunting operations to proceed. It also has a crossover point connecting it with a turntable and locomotive depot, with a siding for the reception of goods trains. The upper station consists of platforms only, and has no facilities for goods or other traffic—an ideal arrangement for reducing the cost of the layout. The station can in any event be enlarged at a later date, but the baseboard would first have to be extended in width.

The hill on either side of the upper station was built up from materials in the Model-Land range, except, of course, for the super structure, which is easily

THE TRI-ANG HORNBY LAYOUT

Power pylons, Catenary electrification and a motorway lend real atmosphere to this scene



built from wire mesh, or sacking supported by pieces of wood. The gradient at both ends of the layout was not made too fierce, but was just sufficient to raise the station above the base board by two or three inches. A catenary was also included to give the layout a modern appearance, and also to allow the operation of a pantograph locomotive.

Two trains in continual use were an EM2 Co-Co electric pantograph locomotive used with three B.R. maroon coaches, and 'Jinty' 0-6-0 tank with two car carriers and a brake van. These, in fact, form the basic contents of the 'Highwayman', and the new 'Car-a-belle' train sets, although the former, as supplied, has only two coaches.

Although the two ovals of track forming the main lines on the layout are not connected by crossovers, it would be quite a simple matter to add two further points to either the bottom station, or at the upper station to allow trains to be exchanged between the different tracks. R490 points will give a trailing crossover, and R491 a facing crossover. Many other refinements could be included if sufficient funds and space were available. For instance, in addition to the crossover points already mentioned, a second set in the lower station would allow shunting to take place between the two

other side of the station was built up from standard platform units with one R459A Large Station Set, and one R458A Small Station Set.

As can be seen from the sketch plan, there's a Tri-ang Hornby turntable at one end of the layout leading into two, two-road Hornby Dublo engine sheds, placed side by side. The lower station is also built up from Hornby Dublo components, in this case the Hornby Dublo Through Station, and behind this is the Hornby Dublo goods shed. Many other items of rolling stock were on display at the show, including the Tri-ang Hornby Blue Pullman Set, the Hornby Dublo 0-6-2T, 'Barnstable' pacific locomotive, and goods rolling stock from both ranges.

The new town series of Model-Land buildings, which should be in the shops in time for Christmas, was displayed for the first time. Of these perhaps the most useful are the Town House RML 38, and the Small Shop and older style Office Block RML 45. Buildings like these can be seen in large numbers in nearly every part of the country, and the kits themselves are moulded in finely detailed ready-coloured plastic; red brick in the case of the House, and concrete lower surfaces with brick uppers in the case of the two shops.

The modern counterparts of the older

style office blocks are the Medium Shop and Modern Office block RML 46, which contrast nicely with the other buildings, and which are very representative of the type of architecture seen in most modern towns. Other models in the town range include a Supermarket RML 60, a Garage RML 68, a Single Storey Medium Shop RML 37, and a Single Storey Small Shop RML 36.

A new series of industrial buildings is the RML 65-67, consisting of a Loading Bay RML 66, Twin Production Bays RML 67, and Factory Power House RML 65. These units can, once assembled, be combined to form one complete factory, or can, of course, be used separately.

One particular Model-Land item that is much in demand is the Church RML 17 and RML 58, either with or without working chimes. These are provided by a precision built musical unit, which comes with the RML 17 model. The church is beautifully moulded to represent a brown-grey stone, with every block faithfully reproduced. Finally one of the latest introductions to the range, often denigrated in real life, the massive power pylons that are now seen marching like a race of giants across the countryside, an unusual feature to include on any layout, and very topical!

—Linesman

AT THE NATIONAL MODEL SHOW

Cork bark 'cliffs' and Model-Land Buildings add variety and realism. You'll get lots of modelling ideas from these photographs!

main lines and an additional loop of track on the outside oval would allow an additional train to be held, or shunting operations to take place. With a baseboard of greater width, additions of a much more extensive nature could, of course, be made and it would be possible for quite a comprehensive second station to be built in place of the existing rather basic upper station.

The Scenery

The Model-land buildings on the layout contributed much to the final effect. King Size Colourings, already mentioned, were used for representing various kinds of earth surface, and also for making trees and other scenic features. Eight basic ground colours are available, and there is also a cork bark which is used for strikingly realistic cliff faces, and cuttings—anywhere, in fact, where rock surfaces are to be represented.

The upper station building was assembled from standard Tri-ang Hornby components—two Ticket Offices R582 forming the ground floor, and one Station Upper Floor R474 forming the top part of the building. Platform extensions to slightly lengthen the basic platform units were also added. The platform on the

