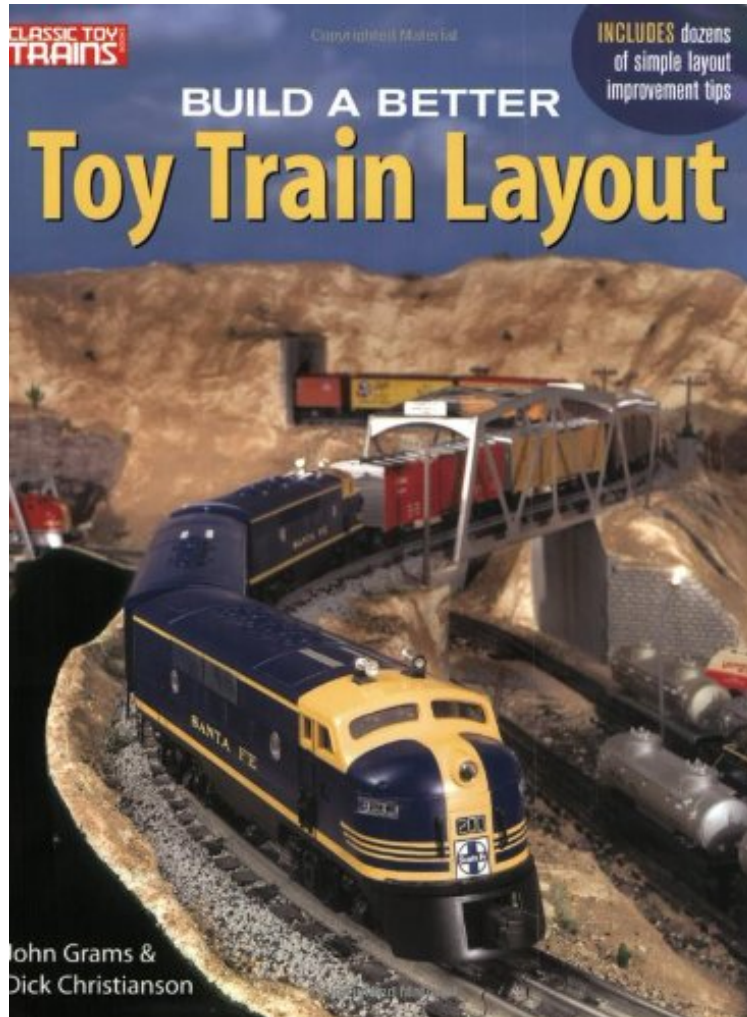


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Build a Better Toy Train Layout (Classic Toy Trains Books)

John Grams

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John Grams : Build a Better Toy Train Layout (Classic Toy Trains Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Build a Better Toy Train Layout (Classic Toy Trains Books):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Build a Better Toy Train Layout, Really? Review: March 2012 By 3Xmom I agree with Jon Lamkin's review in that this book: (a) "covers" all the bases; (b) doesn't really go into great detail on any one topic; and (c) gives you an overview and a list of other books to read/buy. But Mr. Lamkin is being very generous. Presumably, anyone buying a "build a better" type book already knows the basics of the subject and is looking to this type of book to enhance knowledge beyond the basics. This book does nothing of the sort. This book simply introduces the absolute basics (not even in detail) and then poses a bunch of questions back at the reader -

almost always offering zero insight as to what choices he prefers or why. For instance, the book informs you that there are various types of 3-rail track (GarGraves, Atlas O, etc.). At that point, building a "better" layout would suggest the author discuss things like: (a) what track he recommends for superior conductivity or ease of use, (b) what flex track is easiest to bend, or flextrack tips to ensure smooth flowing curves, (c) how to make track look more prototypical; etc. This book offers nothing along these lines. Regarding switch machines, he let's you know they exist and that more than one entity manufactures them (similar to his "insight" on track, trackbed, etc.). But there is no comment at all on which he has found to offer superior reliability, mating considerations for smooth transitions, the various wiring considerations to ensure reliability and motor intergrity, etc. He doesn't even comment on where he thinks switch placement could help enhance a layout. You also might think such a book would touch on more "advanced" subjects, such as creating smooth track inclines/declines, staging tracks considerations, reversing loops, classification yards, automatic track blocks, command control considerations, etc. Forget it, none of this is addressed. Similarly, this book offers zero on improving the most critical item to any model RR - wiring and soldering track so the trains run optimally. Being kind, this book is very light - it introduces things you likely already know and then concludes each topic by asking the reader "barney" questions. It also punts by recommending other books (might as well avoid this and just buy those other books if you are looking for any substance at all). Kind of disappointing for a primer book let alone something touted as advanced reading. Frankly, I'm amazed this ever got published. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you are building a nostalgic post-war Lionel layout you will like this book. By Louis Bruette They could have built a better book. Same old information, not much about modern command control layouts. If you are building a nostalgic post-war Lionel layout you will like this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By dendellgreat

- Perfect for beginning and intermediate toy train operators- Written by John Grams and Dick Christianson