

Cavagila layout in HOm : Peter Marriott was privileged to meet Stephan Kraus the builder of Bemo's latest show layout

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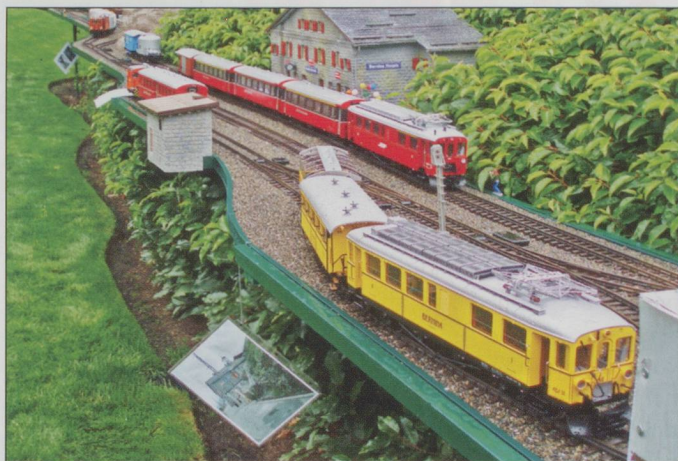
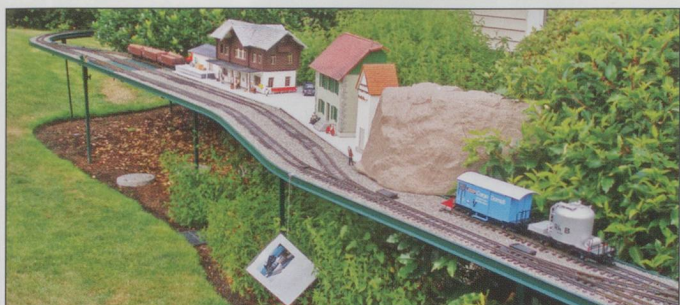
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ABOVE: Train activity at Ospizio Bernina. This photo was taken at the time of the National Garden Railway Convention in August 2010.
TOP LEFT: View of complete outer loop of the railway which entails St. Niklaus and Ospizio Bernina.
BOTTOM LEFT: Track plan of St Niklaus station area. The track is supported by a metal platform, 38 inches above ground.

CAVAGILA LAYOUT IN HOm

Peter Marriott was privileged to meet Stephan Kraus the builder of Bemo's latest show layout

German modeller Stephan Kraus has been engaged by Bemo to produce several HOm layouts for use at model shows in Germany and other countries. I was fortunate to be able to discuss his latest layout at the Cologne 2010 Modellbahn Show. To my eyes this was the best layout in the show because not only did it look very realistic but the trains ran well too. This project, built to celebrate the Bernina centenary, took Stephan four months to build spending 598 hours in total. There are over 250 trees on the layout which were all handmade each requiring about 10 minutes per tree to build. The autumn colouring on the entire layout is very well done - the colour tones are natural and just look right. The layout is built on two baseboards and its trains are controlled by laptop.

Stephan is a qualified architect and his eye for detail on the layout is obvious. There are various cameos dotted about the layout including several railway photographers; groups of people chatting at the station; permanent way workers; and a small herd of deer near the top of the mountainside. Issues 9/2010 and 10/2010 of LOKI magazine contained well illustrated articles about this layout. Stephen also runs SMK Modellbau that has introduced a range of scenic products including a selection of ballast, earth materials, tree stumps, static grass for N scale, foliage, fine twigs, trees and publications. These are available by mail order from SMK Modellbau, Stephan Kraus, Schwabstrasse 20, 74189 Weinsberg, Germany. For more information about these products and other layout building projects go to: www.modellbau-smk.de. The website also contains some intriguing stage by stage pictures of this and other layout projects.

Stephan has been asked to produce another layout for the company for the shows in 2011. Whilst he would say that it is again based on the Rhätische Bahn he would not disclose the prototype that it is based upon. We will need to wait until the 2011 Leipzig show for that. 