

# NEW JERSEY FREE-MO

HO SCALE FREE-MO MODULAR RAILROADING

“BRINGING THE FUN OF MODEL RAILROADING OUT OF THE BASEMENT!”

## What is Free-mo?

Free-mo is a standard used to build realistic HO scale modules depicting prototype railroading in the US and Canada. Developed over the past 15 years, Free-mo has allowed module builders to successfully construct hundreds of prototype-based modules, and then set up and operate them with other modules built to the standard from all over North America.

HO scale modular railroading has been around for more than 30 years. However, most modular standards have focused on constructing oval layouts using standard module sizes with multiple tracks running in a loop.

While many model railroaders have successfully enjoyed building modules to these conventional standards, others were looking for a way to build modules that would be more like the real railroads, but still allow for easy and reliable mating to other modules.

Based on the wildly successful European Fremo modular standard, Free-mo in North America was born.



Free-mo was developed with the idea that a standard that focused mainly on the module endplates would enable faithful modeling of prototype track and operations between the ends. Module length and track configuration is entirely up to the modeler.

Simply put, Free-mo modular railroading allows model railroaders to accurately model the appearance and operation of the real railroads in a flexible, modular environment.



*“Free-mo is a highly flexible, proven standard for building prototype-inspired railroad modules in HO scale”*

- Trevor Marshall, builder of the CN Peterboro Free-mo modules pictured (see August 2008 RMC magazine for more info)

## Who is New Jersey Free-mo?

New Jersey Free-mo is an open group of model railroaders who construct, operate and display Free-mo modular displays throughout the greater New Jersey area and beyond.

There are no elected officials, no dues and no club property. Instead, the group is there to help each other design and build modules that meet the Free-mo standard.

All modules are free to take on any shape and size, while emphasizing prototypical operations and realistic scenery.

Though not affiliated with the NMRA, the New Jersey Free-mo group got its start within the confines of the New Jersey Division of the NMRA.

For more information, visit the website:

[www.njfreemo.org](http://www.njfreemo.org)





## Key Free-mo Specifications:

- ✓ Interface points (ends) are 24" across with a single mainline track centered and perpendicular (double track standard = 26")
- ✓ Mainline Track is Code 83 with #6 turnouts and minimum radius of 42"
- ✓ 50" railhead height from the floor
- ✓ Digitrax DCC is used for train control.
- ✓ Track Bus, Accessory Bus and Loco-Net connectors at each interface point
- ✓ Viewable and operational from either side of module - no backdrop

## More information on Free-mo

The full Free-mo standard is on-line at:

<http://www.free-mo.org>

Questions, comments and more information from actual module builders and groups can be found at the groups.io discussion list:

<http://free-mo.groups.io/g/main>



## Free-mo in action...

Free-mo modules are built with operations in mind, and module builders gather to join their modules into layouts and then run trains.

A person called a Run Chief is usually designated to ensure a successful layout build. The Run Chief uses the measurements of the space available and of the modules being brought to design a layout to best fit the space available. The Run Chief also ensures a proper Digitrax command station is available.

Each builder assembles their module(s) and then one by one, the modules are connected, troubleshooting any issues as they occur. Each module connects to another module via 2" rail segments and by plugging together the male and female Jones plugs, the accessory bus plugs and the LocoNet cable.

After that, it is time to run trains and have fun!

## Free-mo Module Benefits

- ✓ Prototype railroading in a flexible, modular environment
- ✓ Free Form design between the standard ends
- ✓ Provides realistic train operation potential, not just chasing your tail
- ✓ Modules can be any size with any angle on ends
- ✓ Modules can be multi-sections
- ✓ Can be connected to any other Free-mo module built anywhere
- ✓ Quick, Easy Setup
- ✓ Start to a larger layout; or model something different than your current layout

For more information, visit the website:

[www.njfreemo.org](http://www.njfreemo.org)

