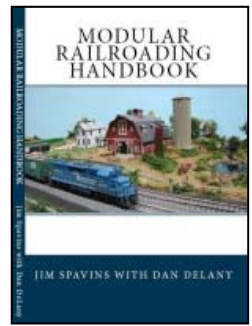




Vehicles for Transporting Your Modules





Vehicles for Moving Your Module

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So now that you've built a module, how are you going to move it from your workshop to a train show setup and back again? That is a good question and there are many ways to accomplish this task. Some are very obvious, some require knowing the right people, but above all they get the job done moving the module safely to its destination.

There are lots of vehicle choices each with its own unique set of advantages and disadvantages. With that in mind, let's set the criteria for what should be considered.

First, the most important consideration for transporting modules is making sure that the one you've built fits in the vehicle. Ideally, if you know the vehicle you want to use to transport the module before you build it, this should be a lot easier. Obviously a small four foot module will fit into almost any car currently available but a large eight foot long module will not. That type of module will require a larger vehicle. Second, the vehicle should provide a weather tight transportation so as not to have the module be damaged in transit. Third, the vehicle should offer a method of holding the module in place while the vehicle is in motion. This is an important safety consideration since you don't want a module bouncing around the vehicle when your zipping down the road.

With these considerations in mind, let's look at some of the different vehicles out there and look at the advantages and disadvantages.

The good old sedan offers a nice weather tight compartment for moving small modules around with a limited amount of accessories. The module can usually be secured in the back seat or the trunk. However, large modules or lots of extra boxes and bags just won't fit.

The mini-van and SUV offer some of the same features as the sedan. The modules will go inside the vehicle and generally a larger module can fit along with extra boxes and bags. A rack



can also be built to hold multiple modules that can be secured for the ride and allow more space for accessories.

Maybe you're like my fellow writer here at Modular Railroading, Dan DeLany, and you like BIG module sets, let's just say 3'x24' yards that also have a corner module and another 2.5'x6' module thrown in for good measure. Even the biggest mini-van or SUV on the market will not be able to handle this amount of modules. In this instance, this probably requires having a number of friends or buying a trailer and having a vehicle large enough to handle the load. In Dan's case, he has a smaller pickup truck that he uses to tow a 16' trailer. This does have the advantage of allowing the modules to be carried in the trailer with all the extra module



accessories put in the vehicle towing the trailer. By setting it up this way, the truck and trailer combination accommodates everything he needs for a show. The trailer can easily be outfitted with custom shelving and racks as well so that the modules can easily and quickly be taken out and loaded when at a show but also secured down when everything is heading down the road.

If you're part of a club or group, it may be worthwhile to look into buying a trailer as a group. This would save costs to everyone involved so long as one of the club members has the ability to tow it.



Now, if you are part of a really big club and has a member who happens to drive a semi for a living, your club can really move modules in style. For about 10 years, members of the Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad Club had the services of a moving truck for the weekend of the Big Railroad Hobby Show put on by the Amherst Railway Society every February in West Springfield, MA. This obviously was a unique situation but every module that

made up the 42'x72' HO layout and 42'x42' G scale layout was packed in the trailer. Obviously, this is the extreme, but it does earn some style points.

So the next time you are out car shopping, besides trying to save money on fuel, think about your current or future modules and how you might make that work to move your modules.