

Building and Running Virtual Trains in 2019

Charlie Comstock

- A virtual railroad is one that is simulated on a computer much like a flight simulator.
- In 2018 the graphics available in railroad simulators caught up to the graphics available in main stream gaming. It's good!
- I've been using **Trainz Railroad Simulator 2019**.
- Running a simulator requires a reasonably fast computer with a discrete graphics card.
- Program lists for \$70. A monthly subscription is \$10 or \$15 depending on level (the cost of an Accurail freight car kit)
- The virtual BC&SJ has a 70+ mile mainline – and it's still growing!
- Supports railroads from around the world

Advantages

- HUGE railroads are available to people with only a tiny space.
- Compression is not required (unless you want it)
- No need to plan for human access to industries. No more aisles!
- Track elevations and grades not limited by ceiling height
- Railroading with friends over the internet is possible
- Ride in your loco cab or admire your train from several external viewpoints
- Variable weather and day/night lighting are built in.
- Active Trainz Forum
- If you can afford \$20-\$40 there a lots of payware layouts available for all parts of the world.
- Loads of free layouts available on DLS (down load server)

Drawbacks

- Can't hold the stuff in your hands (but you don't normally hold your equipment anyway)
- May lose the elbow bumping of railroading with friends
- Significant other may be less tolerant of time spent on computer vs time spent in train room
- Equipment selection may be spotty for your favorite railroad.
- Software bugs (N3V Games is continually fixing/updating Trainz)

Online Trainz Resources

My (Horace Fithers') YouTube channel (BC&SJ videos including those shown today):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKkZbM2b7FJAAlj5a6mEjzA>

N3V Games Forums:

<https://forums.auran.com/trainz/forum.php>

My Bear Creek & South Jackson – progress reports – Building a Mountain Railroad

[https://forums.auran.com/trainz/showthread.php?151240-Bear-Creek-amp-South-Jackson-progress-reports-Building-a-Mountain-Railroad-\(1080p\)](https://forums.auran.com/trainz/showthread.php?151240-Bear-Creek-amp-South-Jackson-progress-reports-Building-a-Mountain-Railroad-(1080p))

Approach Medium's YouTube channel (tutorials covering incredibly detailed virtual layout builds and helpful hints):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCult-Mra7IvgagOJT0mj1TA>

Phil Skene's YouTube channel (he builds model railroad like layouts):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2tLzQO9RFK7ILccYTsb5w>

Colin's Trains (general Trainz build info and reviews)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcHmMtYuY28LK55xLY6J0iA>

The JR Scratchy YouTube channel (a virtual layout professional creator for Jointed Rails):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5UuQpeDZnaqXIFFJ-YVmHw>

Swirly Trainz YouTube channel (tutorials and ride-alongs):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtyvo3NSGOjOtjVMDS7p_DQ