

Education Program Basic skills Series



Module Ten

Golden Spike

The following pages introduce the essential elements required to achieve the NMRA Golden Spike Award

- Introduction
- Rolling stock
- Structures
- Track
- Electrical
- Scenery

Introduction

In the 1960's NMRA introduced the Achievement Program to aid railway modellers improve their railway modelling skills. The program provides a structured approach to improving your modelling skills and sharing them with your modelling colleagues.

The program covers building locomotives, rolling stock, structures, scenery, prototype scenes, wiring, track laying, authorship and service to the hobby.

The Golden Spike award is the lead in to NMRA's Achievement Program. The award recognises NMRA members achievement in using the skills and techniques described in the preceding modules in this series. The award does not require contest level entries. The aim is to show you have had a go at railway modelling.

The Golden Spike award requires you demonstrate your work in the following areas

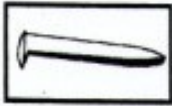

- Rolling stock
- Structures
- Scenery
- Track
- Electrical

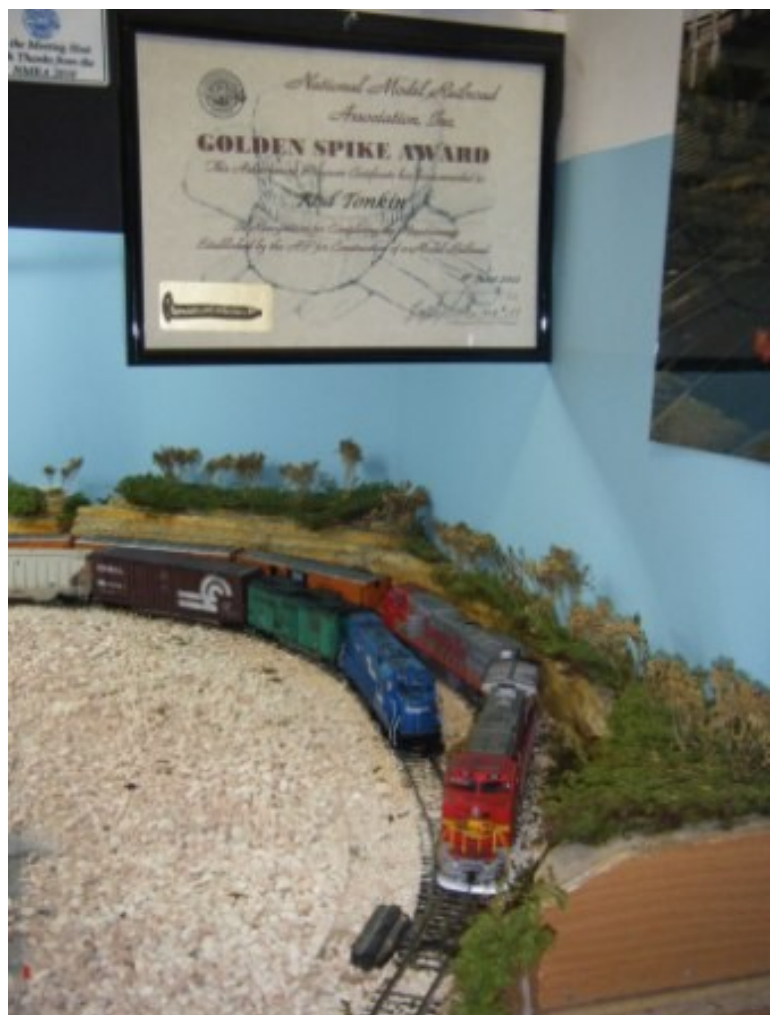
Applying for the award requires you as an NMRA member to submit your Golden Spike Award application form to your local Achievement Program Representative. You then need to arrange a meeting so you can demonstrate your layout electrical system and display your rolling stock, structures, track and scenery to your local Achievement Program Representative.

Announcement of your award is by Mainline and the AR web site. Your framed award certificate will be presented at a division meeting.

For more details on the Golden Spike Award please contact the NMRA AR regional superintendent in your area listed on our web site

<http://www.nmra.org.au/>

	ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM May 2006
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR	
Member's Name: <u>Rod Tonkin</u>	NMRA#: _____ EXP: <u>Jul 12</u>
Address: <u>5 Willasden Ave</u>	City: <u>Kingsley</u>
State/Prov: <u>WA</u>	Country: <u>Australia</u> Postal Code: <u>6026</u>
Date Submitted: <u>29-Apr-12</u>	Region: <u>Australian</u>
The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and detailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist; obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.	
QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or detailed commercial kits.	
2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.	
3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.	
Witness: 	Name: <u>Frank Gaudin</u> NMRA #: <u>109205</u>
Regional AP Chair: _____	Region: <u>Division 4</u>



Rolling stock

The award requires you to display six items of rolling stock (locomotives, passenger coaches or freight cars) showing you have done more than taken them out of the box.

The work on your rolling stock can include modifying the appearance, adding additional parts, repainting, re numbering and or weathering.

The models in the photos were displayed by local modellers to qualify for the Golden Spike award.



- ATSF FP45 5940 was repainted, decaled and weathered to match photos of the original as it appeared in the mid 1970's.
- Union Pacific 168178 has had its roof walk removed and been weathered.



Structures

Structures for the purposes of the Golden Spike Award can be buildings, bridges or tunnels. The structures shown in the photos are a combination of modified ready to install buildings, modified kits and scratch built.

The structures in the photos were displayed by local modellers to qualify for the Golden Spike award.

- The pre cast concrete culvert Santa Fe 655 is crossing was scratch built from foam core board



- The station platform shelter is a Hornby ready to use model with a new asbestos roof, smoke stack, station name board, window frames and doors painted white, windows glazed with white glue and weathered using pastels



Track

The Golden Spike award requires you to install and demonstrate the operation of three items of track work. The track needs to be laid on a raised road bed and suitably ballasted. The track work items can all be the same or they can be of differing types. They can be off the peg point work like those shown in the attached photo.

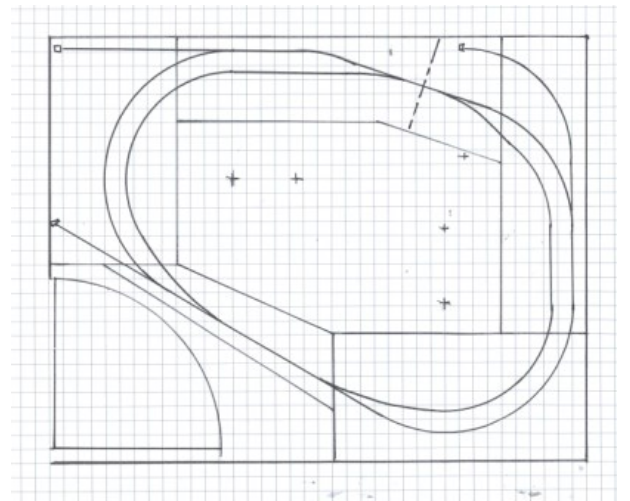


Electrical

The Golden Spike award requires the track work on your layout to allow two train operation. This means you need a place for one train to stop to allow the other train to pass like the passing tracks shown in the attached track plan.

With DC control you need isolation switches to allow the stopped train to be unpowered while the other train runs past. DCC operation allows you to simply select the train you wish to operate and the other train will not move.

In addition to two train operation the Golden Spike award requires you to demonstrate an electrically operated accessory. This can be an electrically powered point motor such as the ones shown in the above photo.



Scenery

The Golden Spike award requires you to build three quarters of a square metre of scenery. The scenery shown in the attached photo was sufficient to qualify for the Golden Spike Award as shown by the award certificate hanging on the layout valence. The HO scale layout in the photo occupies a walk in wardrobe 1,900 mm long by 1,500 mm wide.

