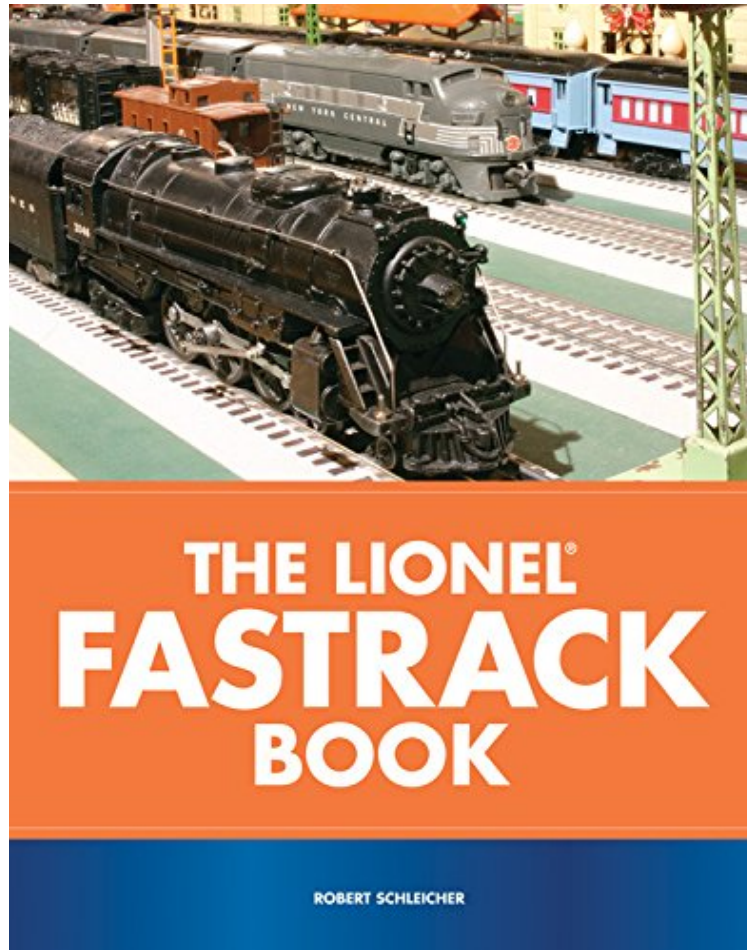


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## The Lionel FasTrack Book

*Robert Schleicher*

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**Robert Schleicher : The Lionel FasTrack Book** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lionel FasTrack Book:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Nearly Useless. By Northside 415I wish I read the reviews before buying this book. This book is nearly useless and full of misinformation. I was hoping that this book would have enough information on Lionel FasTrack geometry to allow me to design my own layout. But sadly, it does not. In one chapter, it says that one could design a layout with a compass and triangle, but most people find it easier to just buy a bunch of track and see what works. Well.... Lionel track is EXPENSIVE. I want to know it will work before I drop a few hundred bucks. What exactly is this book for? Other pieces of misinformation in the book: - FasTrack curve radius is from the CENTER rail, not the OUTER rail as described in the book. - Last I checked, a quarter circle is 90 degrees, not 45 degrees... - Lionel does make 048 switches (left out of this book?) - The electrical diagram for keeping two transformers in phase is MISSING A VERY CRITICAL DETAIL - the transformers must also be plugged into a wall

outlet that is on the same phase!!! If you plug one in to an outlet on one side of the room and another on the other side of the room and they happen to be on circuits that are on opposite sides of your house breaker box and you follow this diagram, you will have out of phase wiring!!!- As others have mentioned, some of the layouts in this book do not work! Here are two questions I'd still like answered (you will not find the answers in this book):- The larger Lionel FasTrack switches drive the train straight forward before the switch begins the turn... how far forward does it go? This is important if you need to buy a matching straight section on the other side of your layout.- How long are the 45 cross pieces or the 90 cross pieces?- Can a switch be used as an electrical isolation block? 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Save your money By Virginian This book is of very marginal value. It has many nice, but not very useful pictures, but its technical descriptions are very, very thin and incomplete. If all you're interested in is layouts, the book is ok, but if you're looking for information on how to use Lionel systems, this book will be of little help. Typical of the book's inattention to detail: pages 42-44 purport to explain how to use TMCC with Fastrack. In those three pages, there are approximately 2/3 a page of text and 4 different pictures, ALL of which show you how to connect to your track using a Lionel lock-on onto an O-27 (i.e. non-Fastrack) piece of track. Need to know how to get a third wire connected to your Fastrack so you can connect to both the command base and power supply? Figure it out yourself. Worried that Lionel tells you to use 14 gauge wire and the Fastrack connections are 22 gauge? Too bad. No answers here. No apparent awareness of Fastrack-related issues. This book is typical Lionel. Plenty of gloss, but very poor documentation. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Waste of money By Deputy Not enough useful info in here to make it worth buying. Just go on a Lionel forum and ask questions and you won't need this book.

When Lionel introduced its new FasTrack system in 2004, model train enthusiasts quickly warmed to the increased realism right down to the integrated roadbed and darkened center rail and the greater ease of use. In this book, the author of *The Big Book of Lionel* presents the first complete guide to the FasTrack system. Amply illustrated with color photographs and 36 track diagrams, the book instructs readers on every aspect of the system, from assembling and disassembling FasTrack to building a simply oval, planning a layout within various space constraints, building tracks for two trains and reversing trains, and designing unique layout seven yard layouts.

The Villager