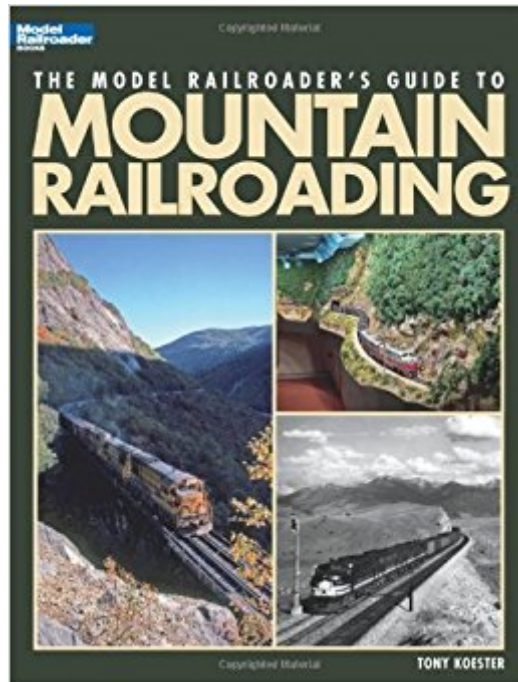




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# Model Railroader's Guide To Mountain Railroading



## Synopsis

With its dramatic scenery and challenging operations, mountain railroading is an appealing theme that crosses many regions and all eras. Respected author Tony Koester offers insight into layout and track planning, and compares narrow gauge with standard gauge railroads. Essential advice on achieving realistic mountain operation is included, along with tips for working relevant scenery into the layout.

## Book Information

Series: Model Railroader's Guide To...

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Kalmbach Publishing Company (November 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 089024815X

ISBN-13: 978-0890248157

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #652,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Model Trains #51340 in Books > Teens

## Customer Reviews

Tony Koester has written a half-dozen books focusing on his life-long hobby of model railroading. Tony is the editor of Model Railroad Planning, a special annual issue of Model Railroader magazine, as well as a contributing editor to MR. He writes MR's popular Trains of Thought column and has written numerous feature articles for MR. He also served as the editor of Railroad Model Craftsman magazine until 1981. Tony spent a quarter of a century designing, building, and with his friends, operating a freelanced coal-hauling HO railroad, the Allegheny Midland (the Midland Road). More recently, he has been hard at work on a multi-deck HO layout that accurately depicts the Nickel Plate Road's St. Louis Division as it appeared in 1954.

I've read a lot of Tony Koester's books but I was genuinely surprised with this book -- in a good way. A lot of the books Model Railroader publishes lean very strong on the physical part of "how-to". For the past few years Koester has written titles delving more into the design part of model railroad. However those titles have tended to be very broad and, in my opinion, not as effective as they could

have been. They lacked focus in a sense. Mountain Railroading seems to address this shortcoming and rather well. It's not a book about how to lay track or build plaster mountains. It's a book about designing a specific type of model railroad. Koester uses this focus to talk about the highs and lows of having a layout full of mountains, from difficulties in operation to leveraging the "clinging to the mountain side" look when designing the benchwork. Being primarily a narrow gauge model railroader I'll admit perhaps I may be a bit biased in this regard but the book actually contained a chapter on narrow vs. standard gauge for mountain railroads, delving into some pros and cons of both. I was happy to see narrow gauge getting acknowledgment as a serious contender for mountain railroads. The book also covers some other interesting topics like what kind of motive power were likely to be seen in the mountains (this chapter alone ended up having me discover the Milwaukee Road's electrified line through Idaho and Montana). It might sound funny, but my overall reaction after finishing the book was wanting there to be an equivalent book for both prairie and shore front railroads as well. The focus of the book really gives it its value, and I'm really hoping Model Railroader/Koester turn this into a series.

Good look at mountain railroading for model railroaders. But, like most, if not all of Kalmbach's books, they seem to just touch the subject, but don't go into any meaningful depth and/or detail on the subject. In fact, as one reads thru this book, as well as their other publications, one will pause and say "this seems very familiar, and I know I read this material before. . ." And, chances are they did in back issues of Model Railroader, for that's where most of the material in these books come from. However, these books are useful as they gather together all of that previously published material into a single publication. For newer modelers that don't have a closet full of back issues they can be worth the price - albeit \$22.+ for a soft cover / 128 page text is a bit much - esp if one feels the need to gather up a large # of these books.

This was an interesting book. The author weaves together real mounting RRs and top notch model mountain RRs and provided quite a bit of useful information. I am a rank amateur in model RRing but I still found the information quite accessible. I should not, it is not a how to manual per se'. Overall a worthwhile book.

Horrible book. This is a decent book for mountain railroading but not for modelers. No scratch built projects, no explanation of how to build a layout with a mountain railroading focus, no real world comparisons that are relevant to a layout and no O scale, all HO, if any.

The pictures looked advanced leaving me to think I would fail at this. They include step-by-step instructions and I was able to keep up and made some scenes even look better. I was really surprised!

Great booklet, will teach you a lot about mountain railroading

Definitely give some ideas thoroughly covers the topic. In shape that it was described in.

Good ideas for model railroading

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