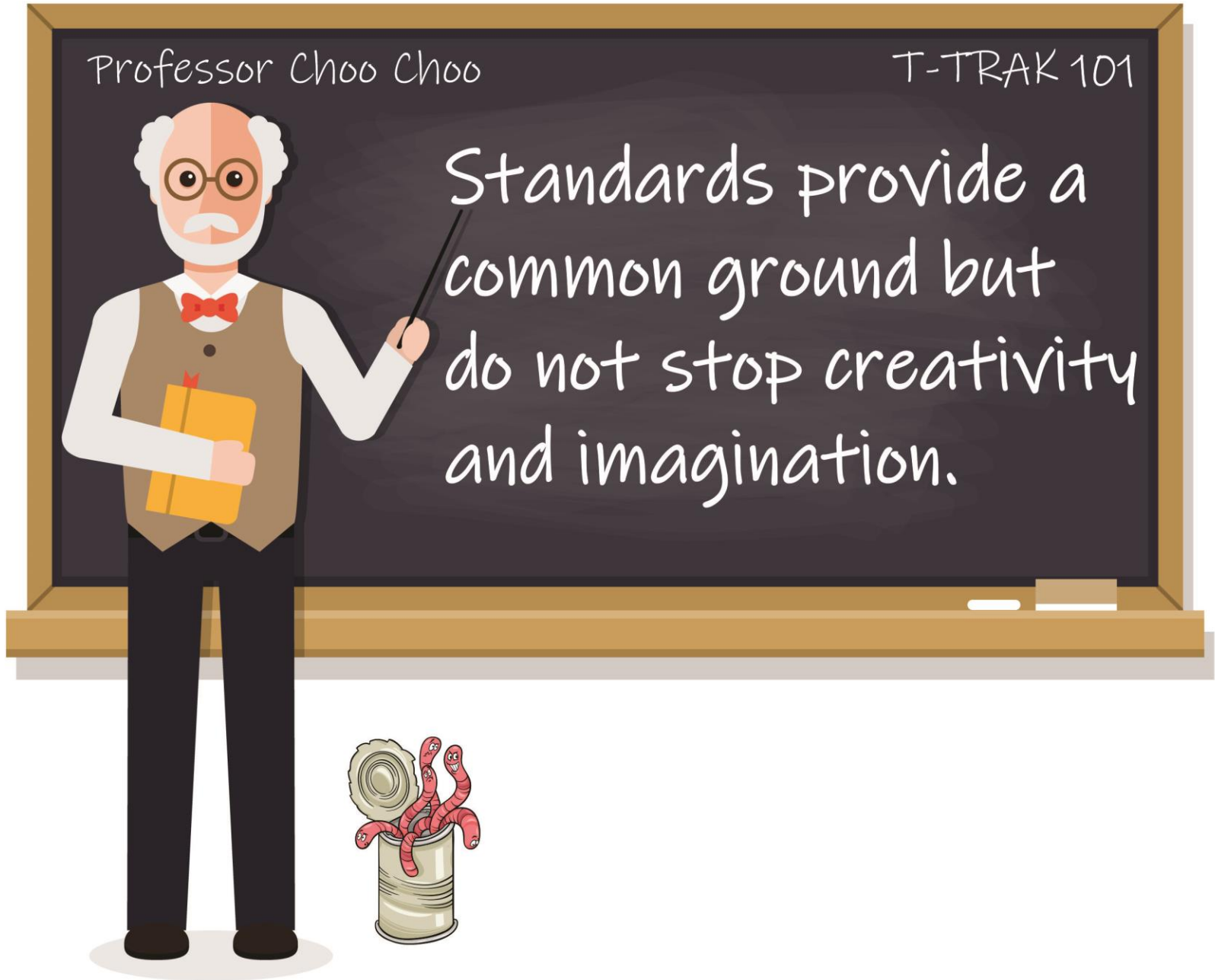
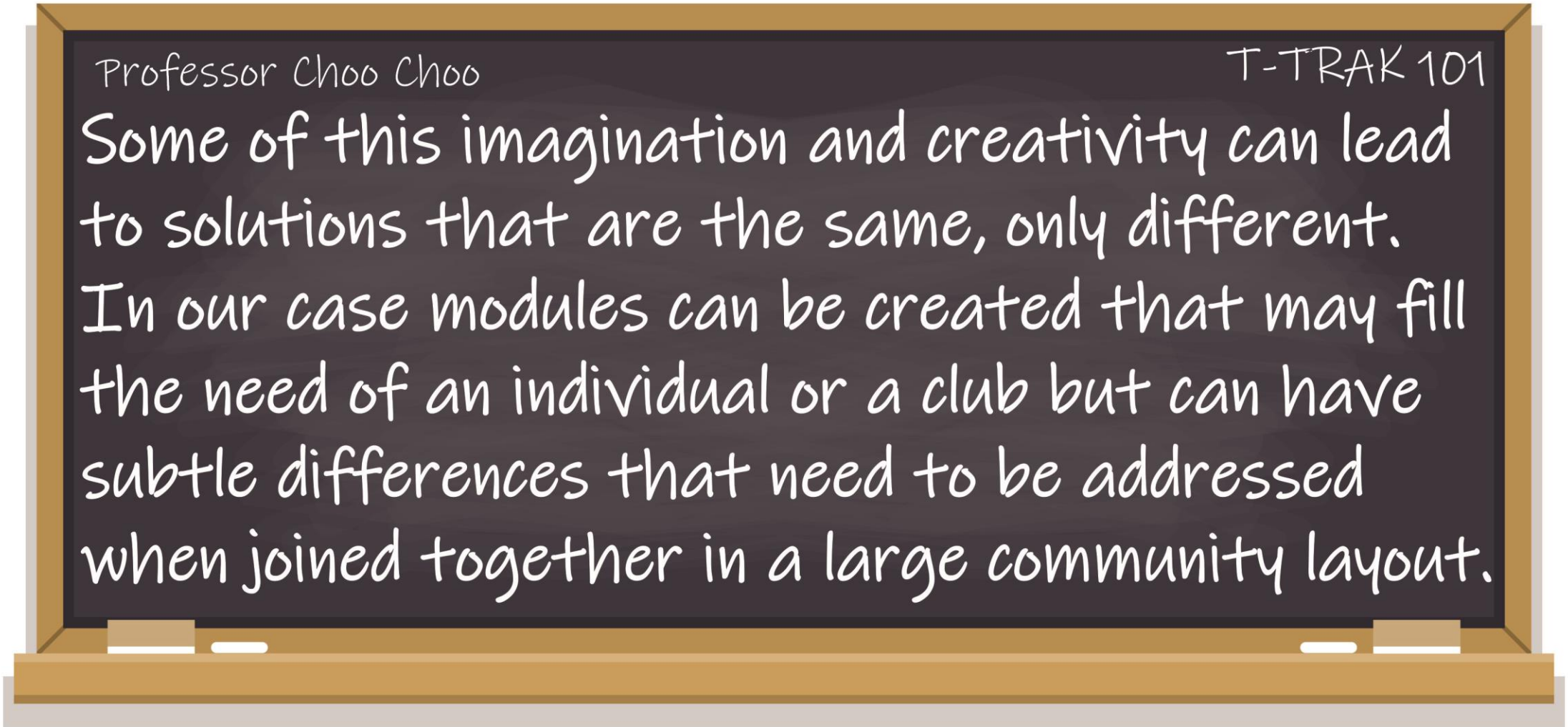
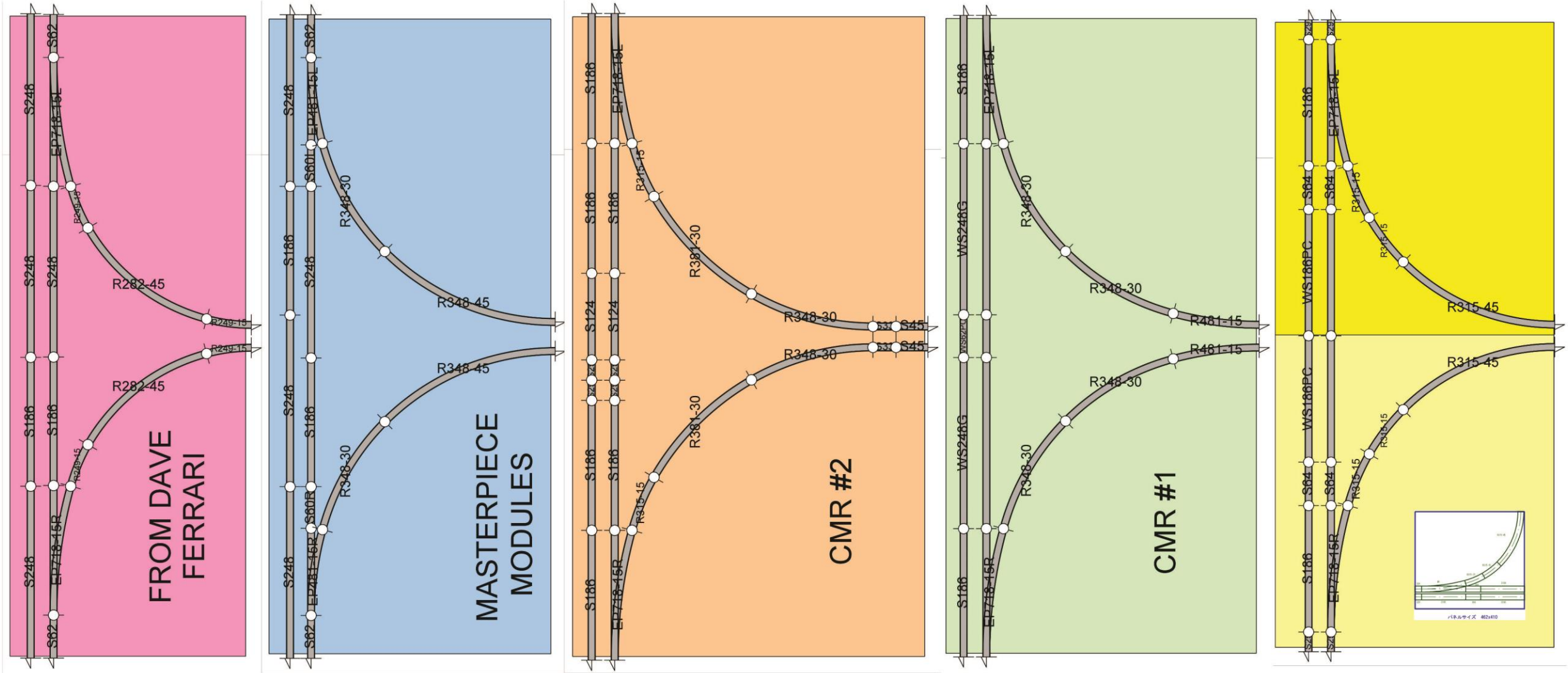
TALKIN' T-TRAK

Today I'm dealing with an already opened can of worms:

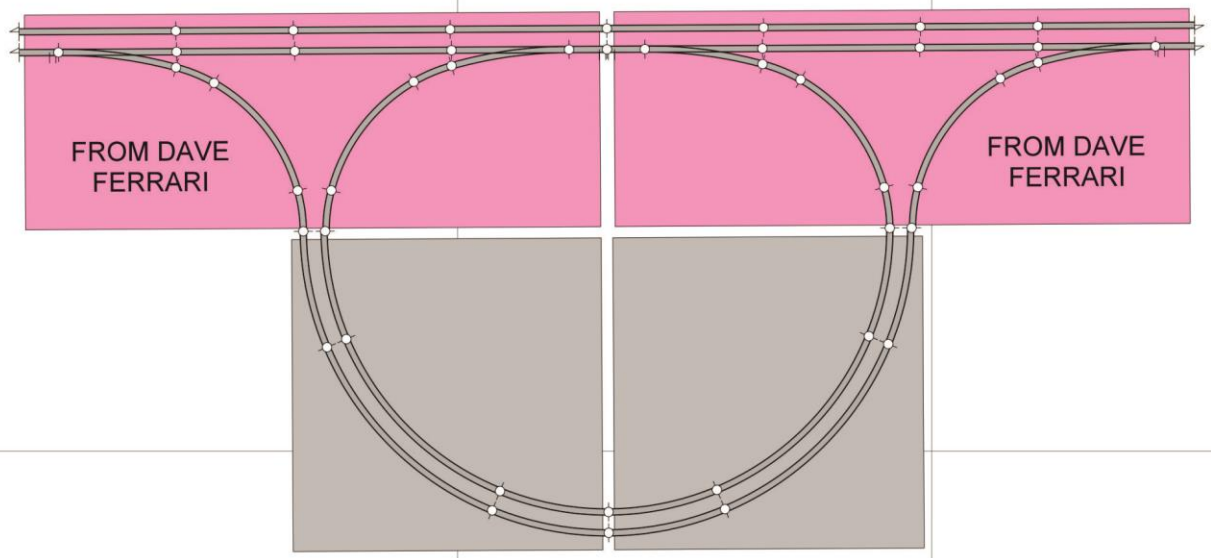
"BRANCHLINE JUNCTIONS"

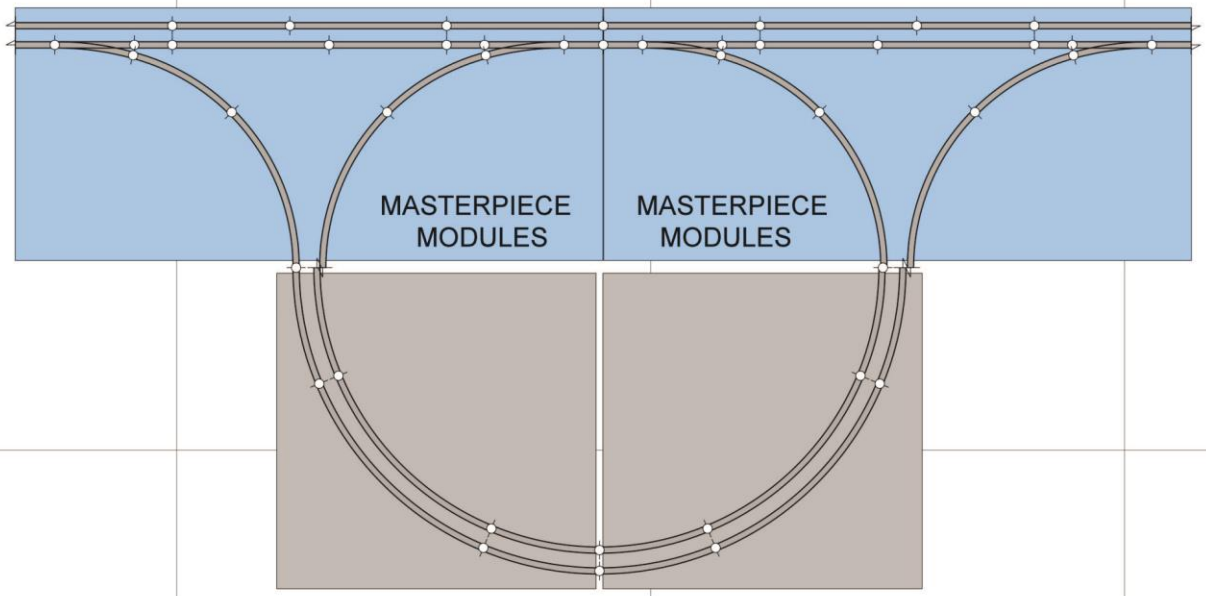

Professor Choo Choo
T-TRAK 101
Standards provide a common ground but do not stop creativity and imagination.

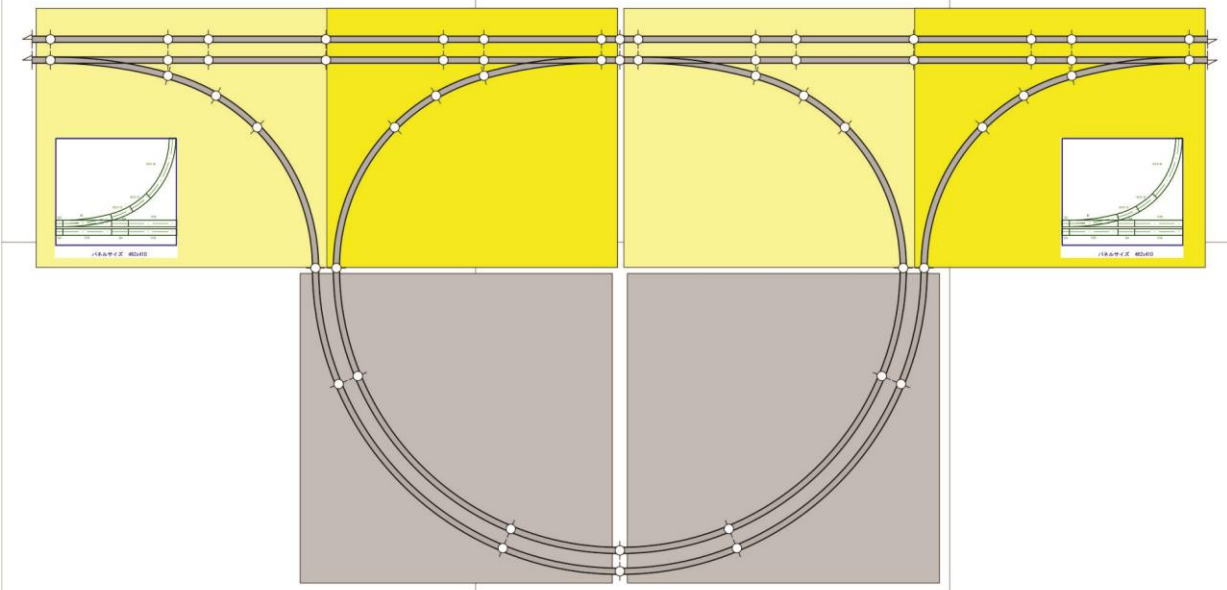

Professor Choo Choo
T-TRAK 101
Some of this imagination and creativity can lead to solutions that are the same, only different. In our case modules can be created that may fill the need of an individual or a club but can have subtle differences that need to be addressed when joined together in a large community layout.

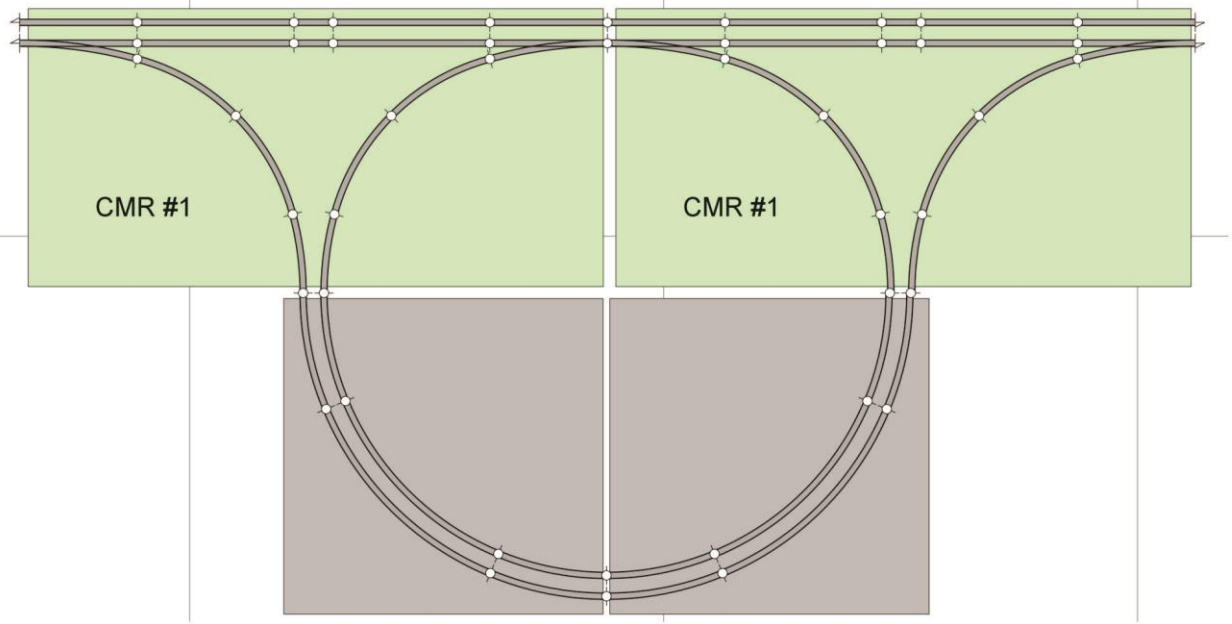


Five designs of the "Branchline Junction" theme (so far!). Considering the ingenuity of our T-TRAK family of model railroaders there are probably more created by individuals or clubs to suit their needs. These are all based on the length of a triple straight module and do at least 2 things very well. Some will do more, while others need help by adding some track.

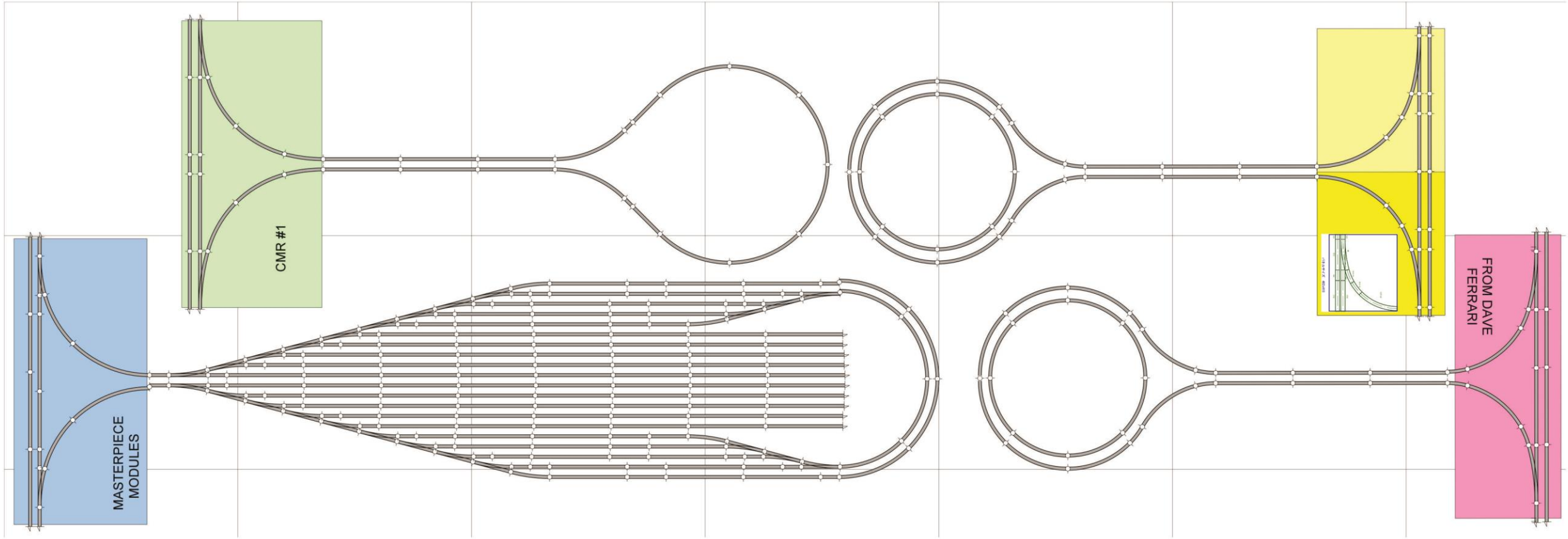




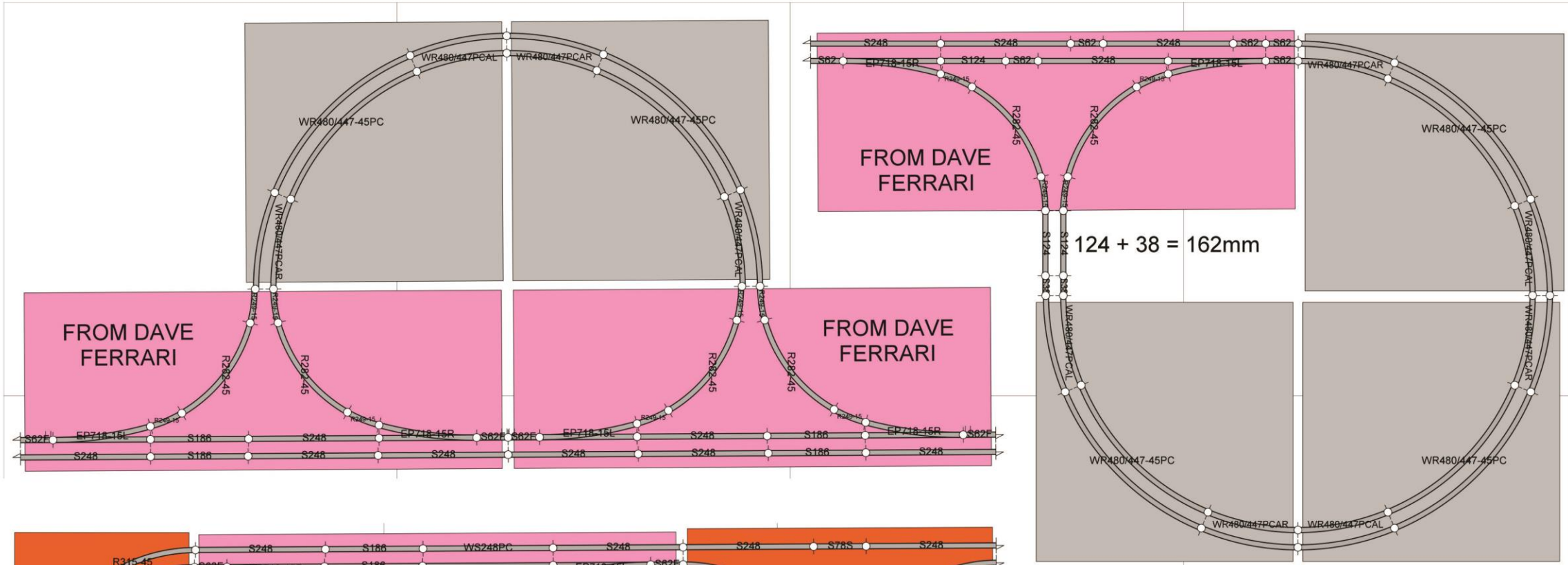


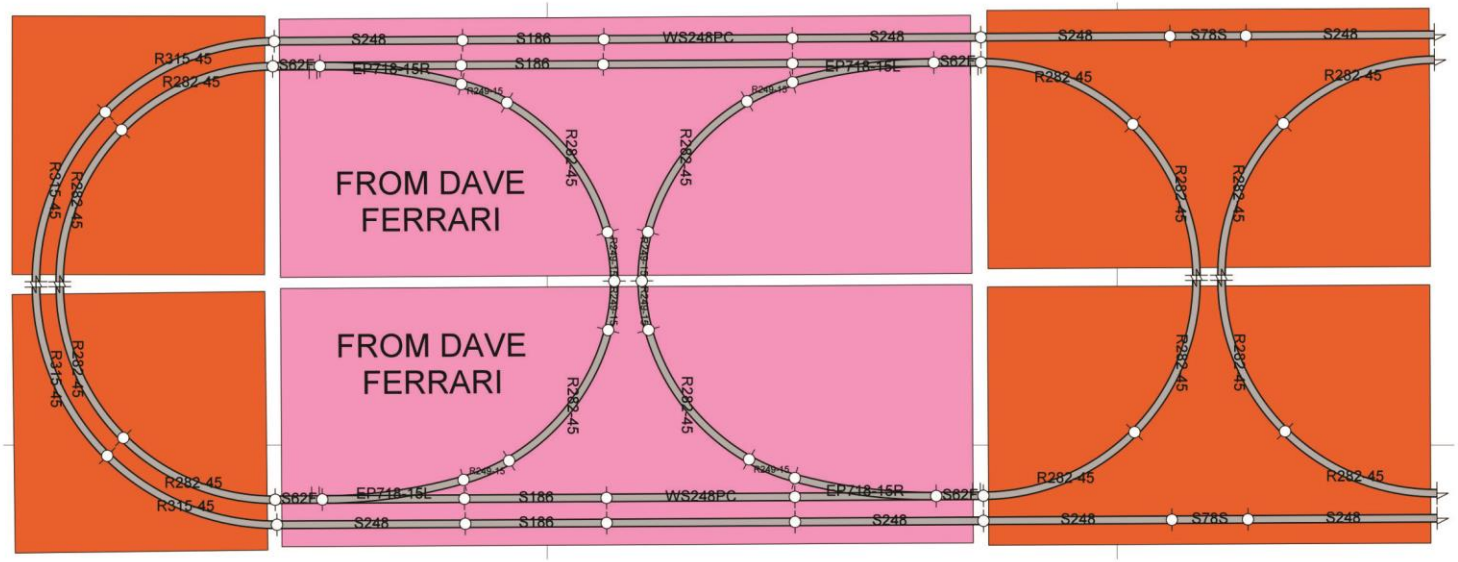


These 4 are fine for supplying a large loop with large radius corners or . . .

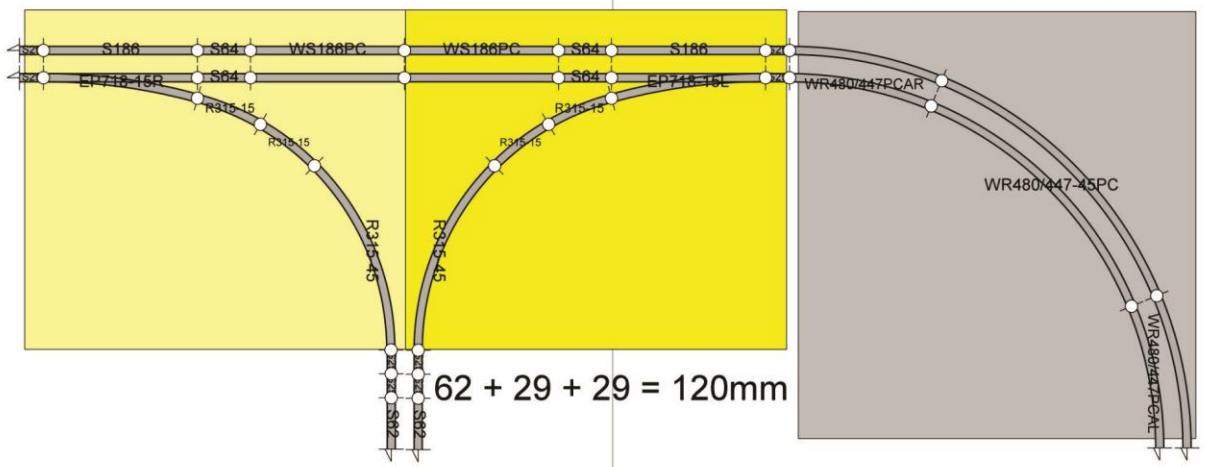


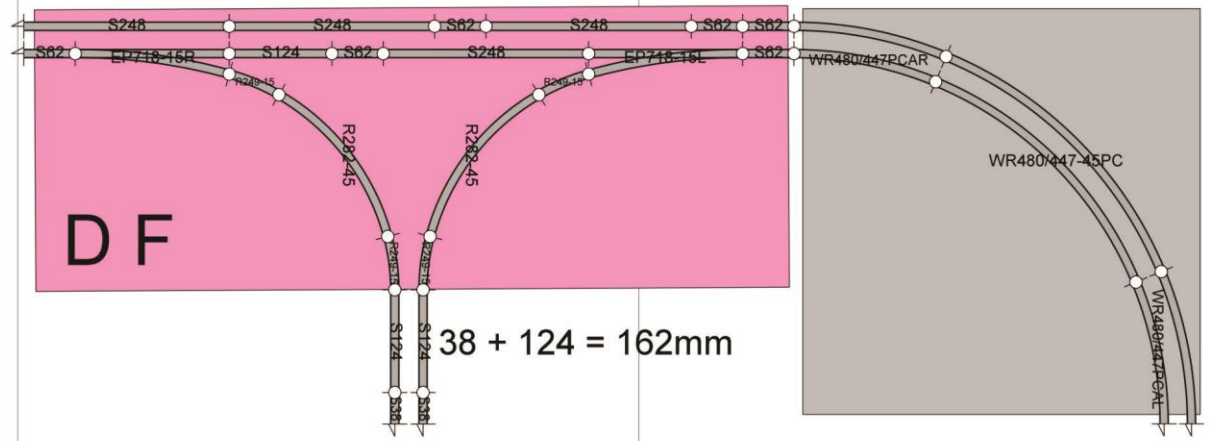
To provide a connection to a branch to a balloon track or rail yard.

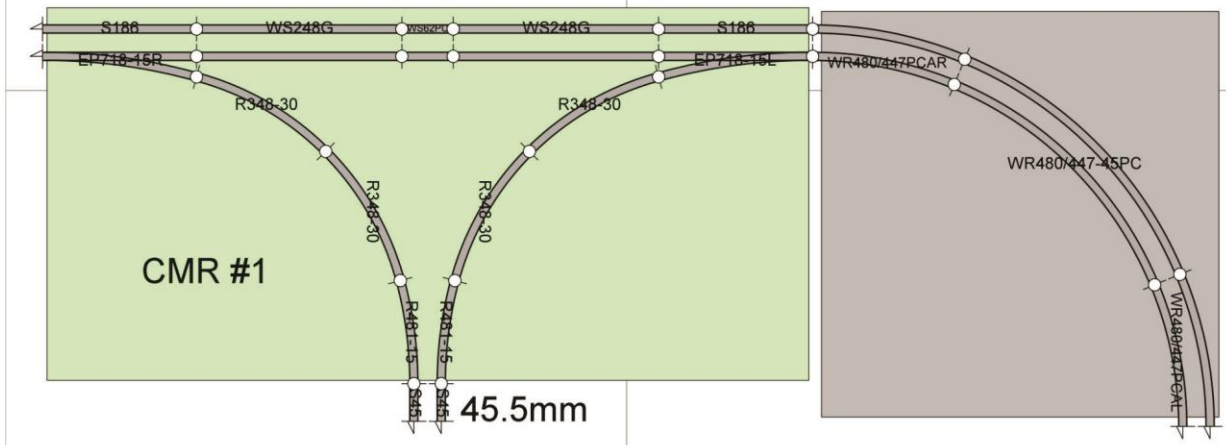


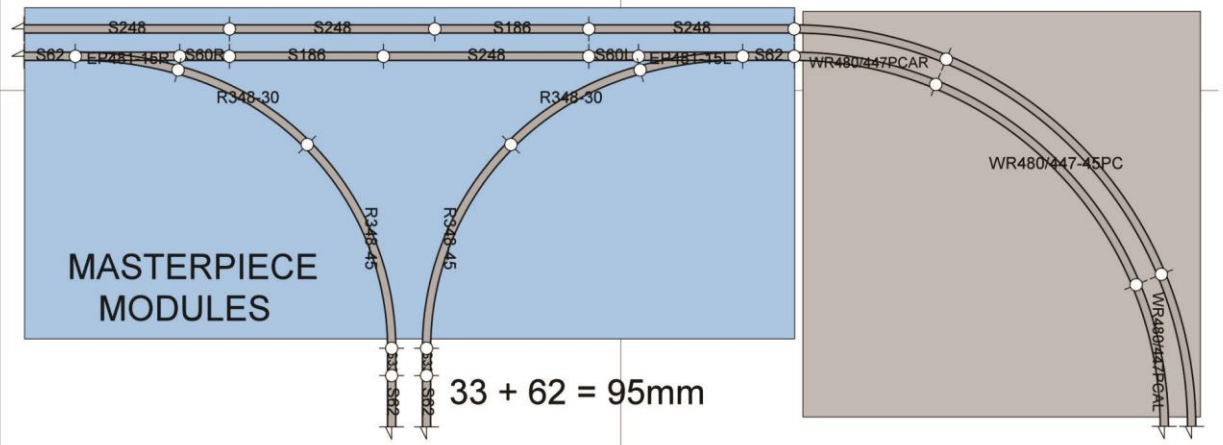


Dave Ferrari's version of a Branchline Jct. works with large corners, is as long as a triple module, relates well with standard corners and Steve Jackson Junctions and allows for a run through track on a classic T-TRAK layout single row of tables.

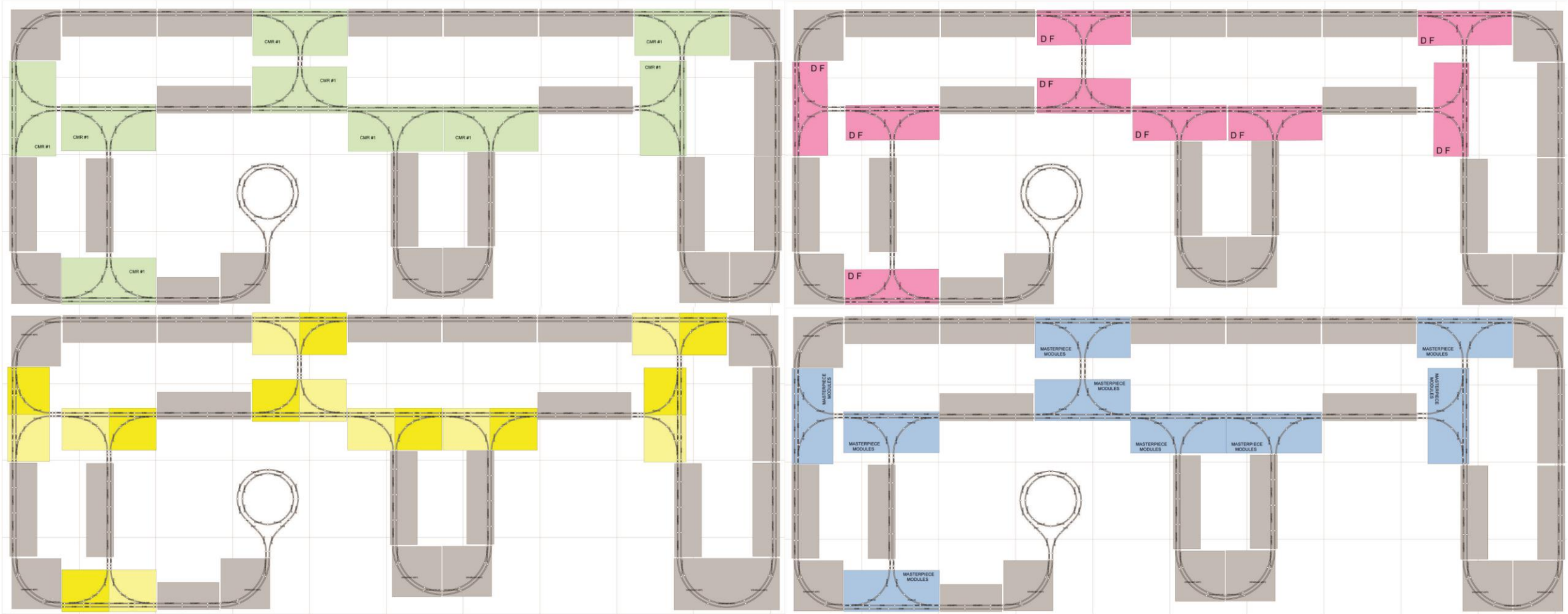






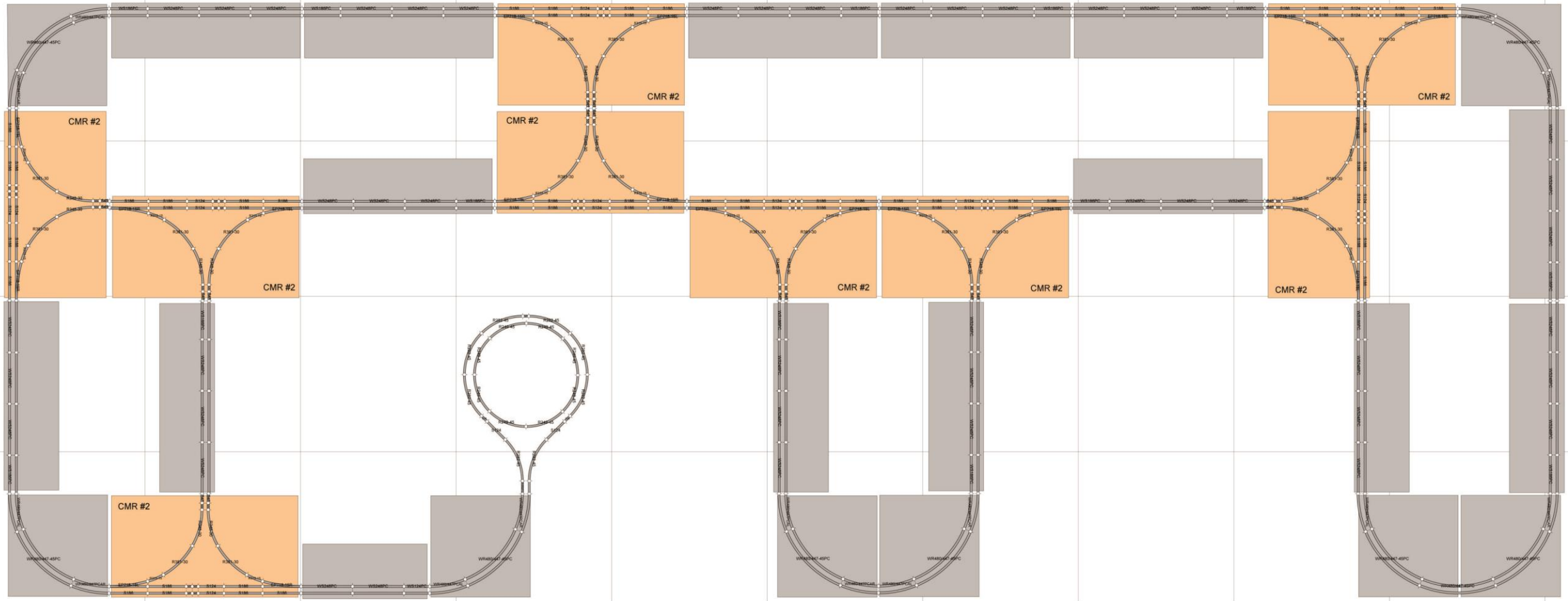


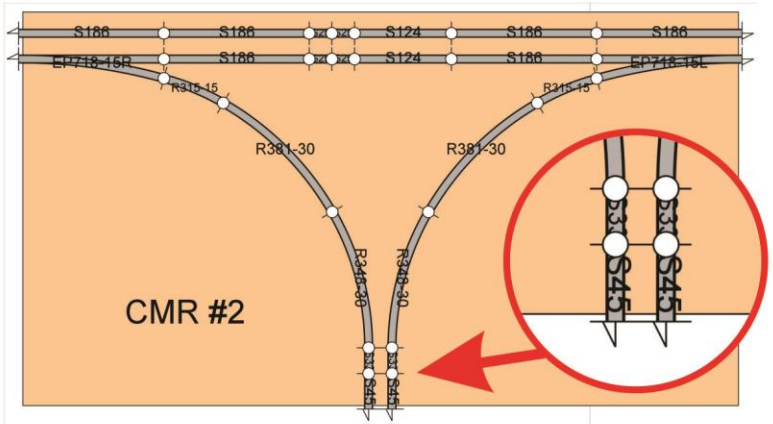
Adding straight track pieces to the "nose" of the junctions will equate the size of a large corner allowing them to be used to create more interesting layouts. Due to the length and the multi track piece construction of some "adapters" creating a mini module or at least attaching the track pieces to a board for support may be advisable.



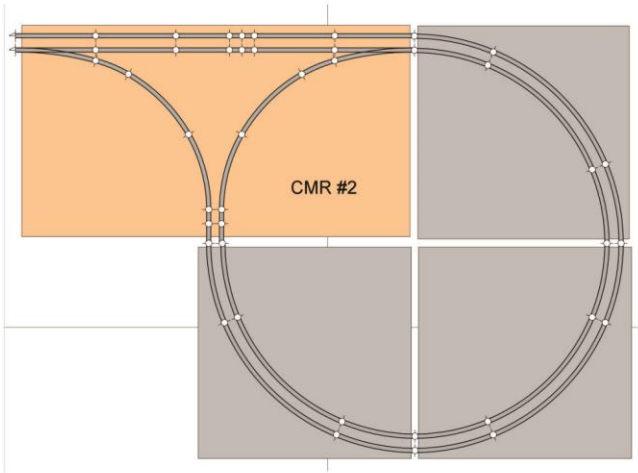
All of these junctions, with their added trackage, can be included into a layout with 447/480mm large radius corners in any number of ways. With their added adapter tracks they're all on common ground.

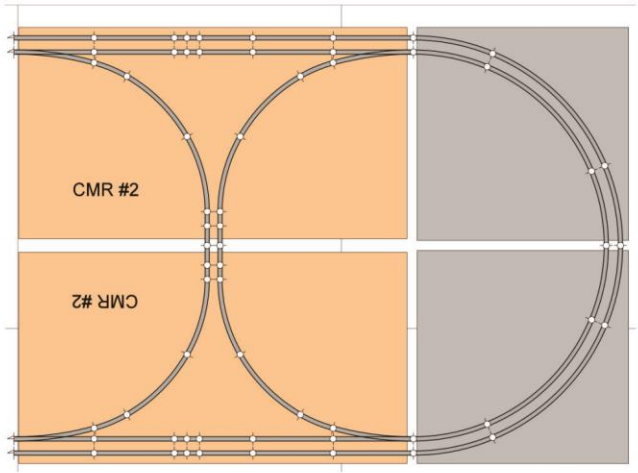
(In fact, they can be included in layouts with standard 282/315mm corners when the junctions are treated as large corners with their added track pieces and the usual considerations are taken when combining large and standard corners. That's a story for another day.)

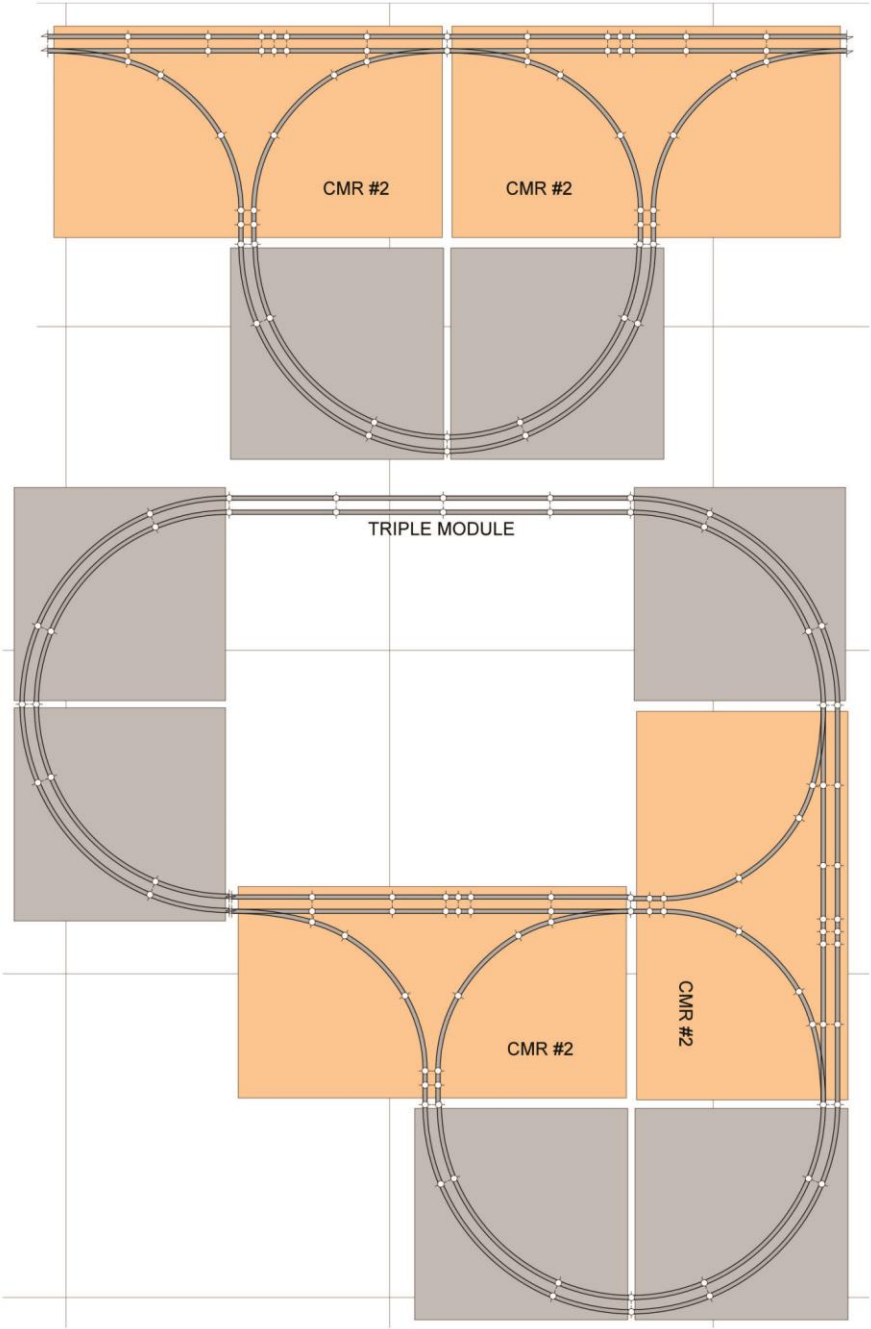




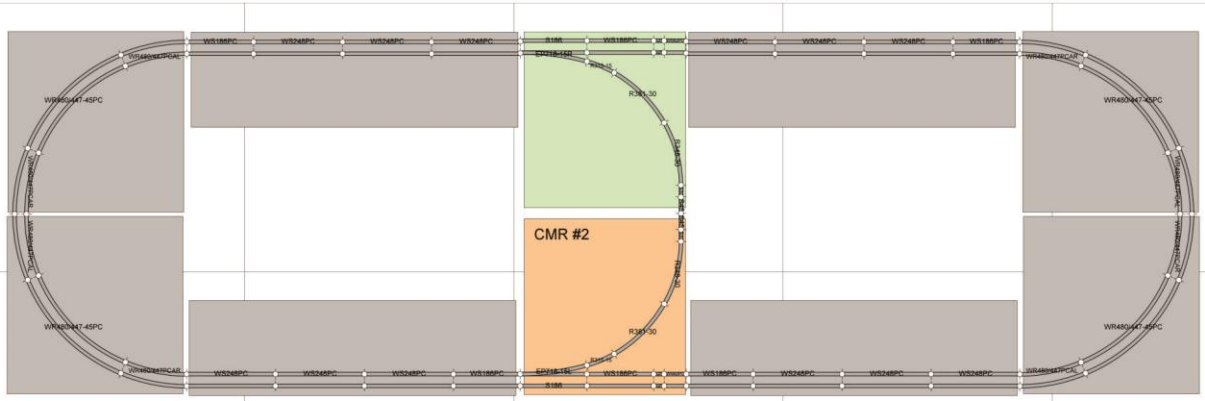
CMR's second design will do all those things too. But, with the necessary straight track pieces included in the design, additional pieces of straight track are not required to equate a 447/480mm large corner. It's an almost perfect world!

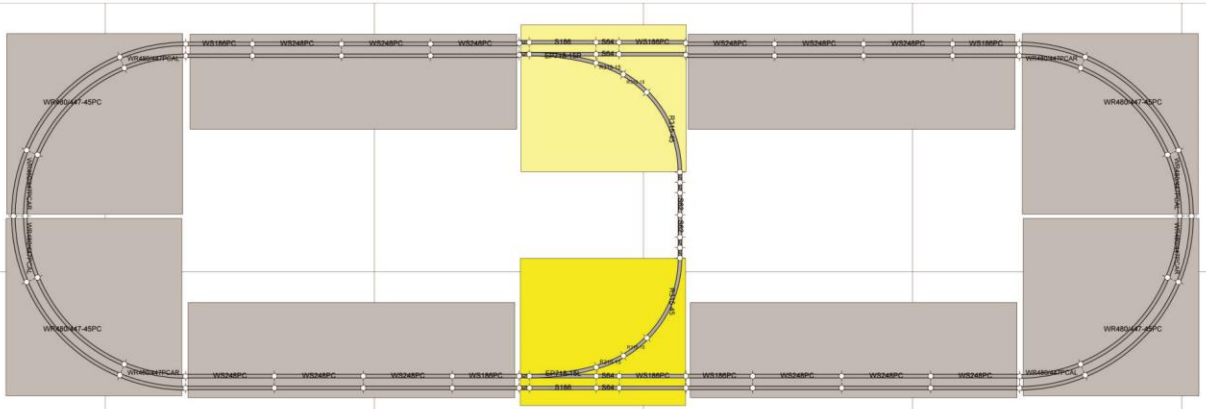


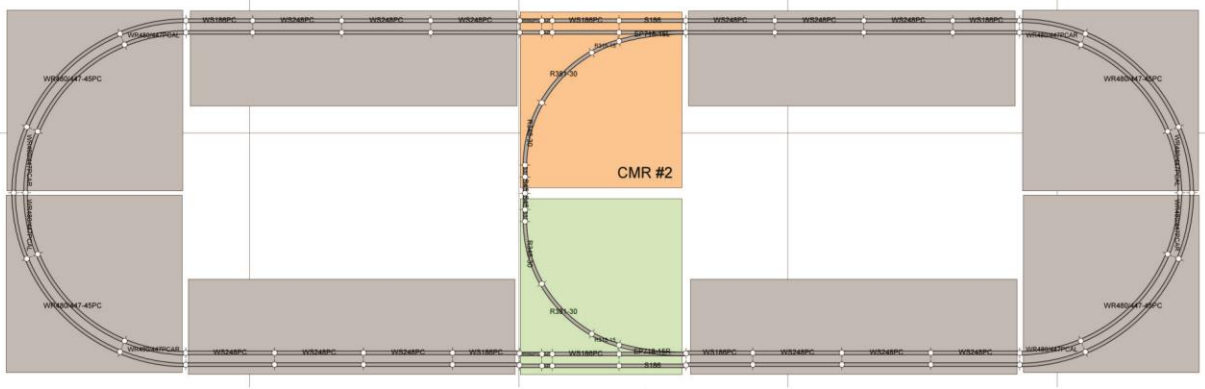


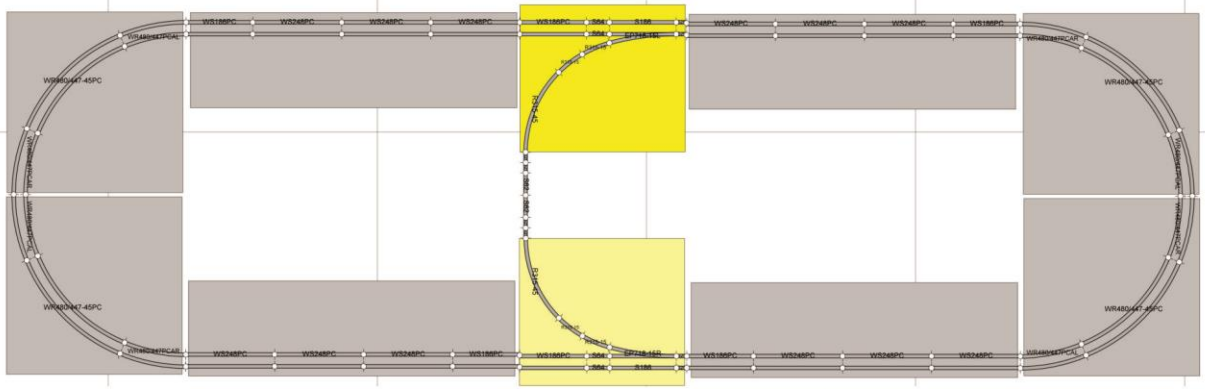


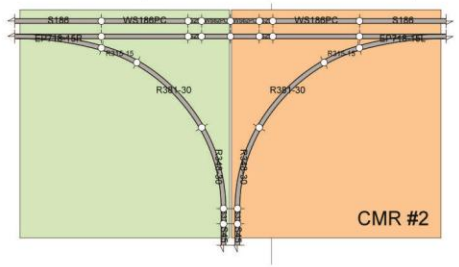
CMR's current version of their Branchline Junction is a perfect companion for the 447/480mm radius large radius corners in any situation. This design uses #6 turnouts. But, it's 4mm short of a triple straight module length so that it's a perfect match with a large corner, but is within the "fudge factor" limits that I strive for.

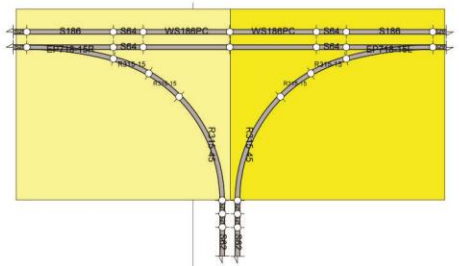




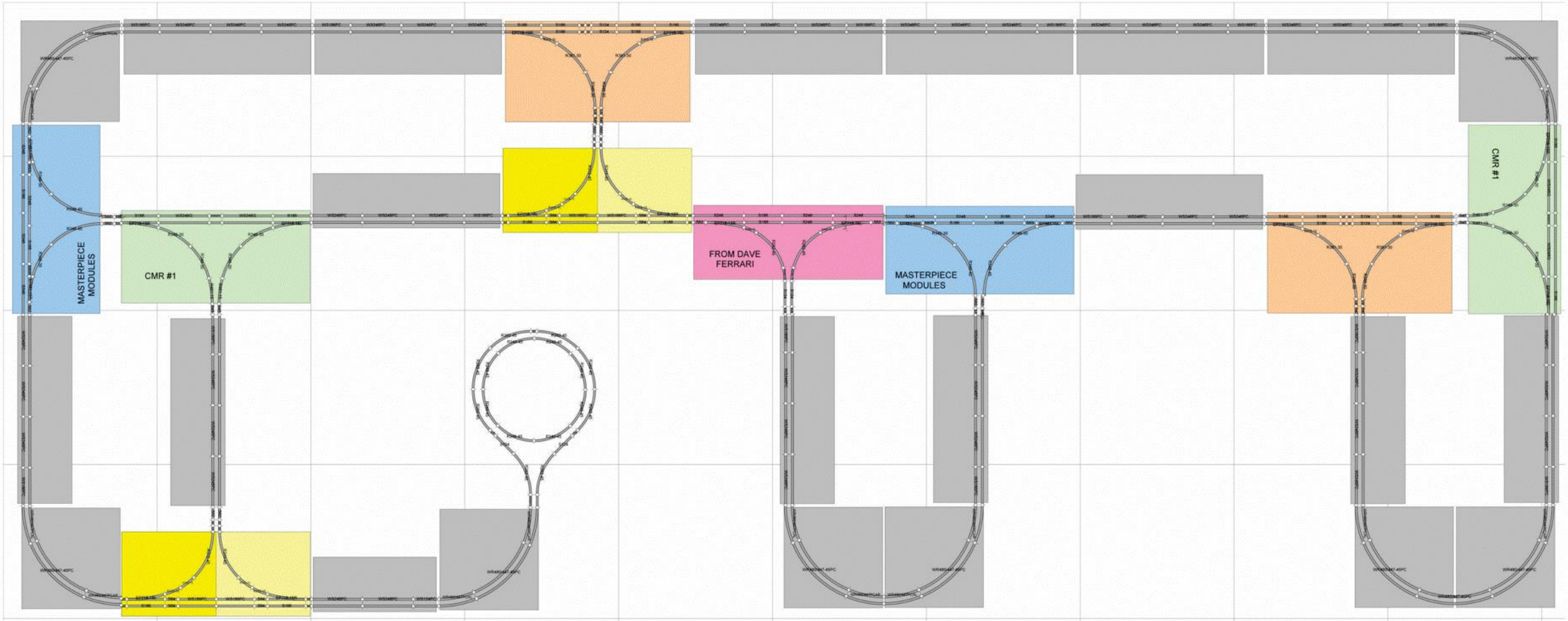




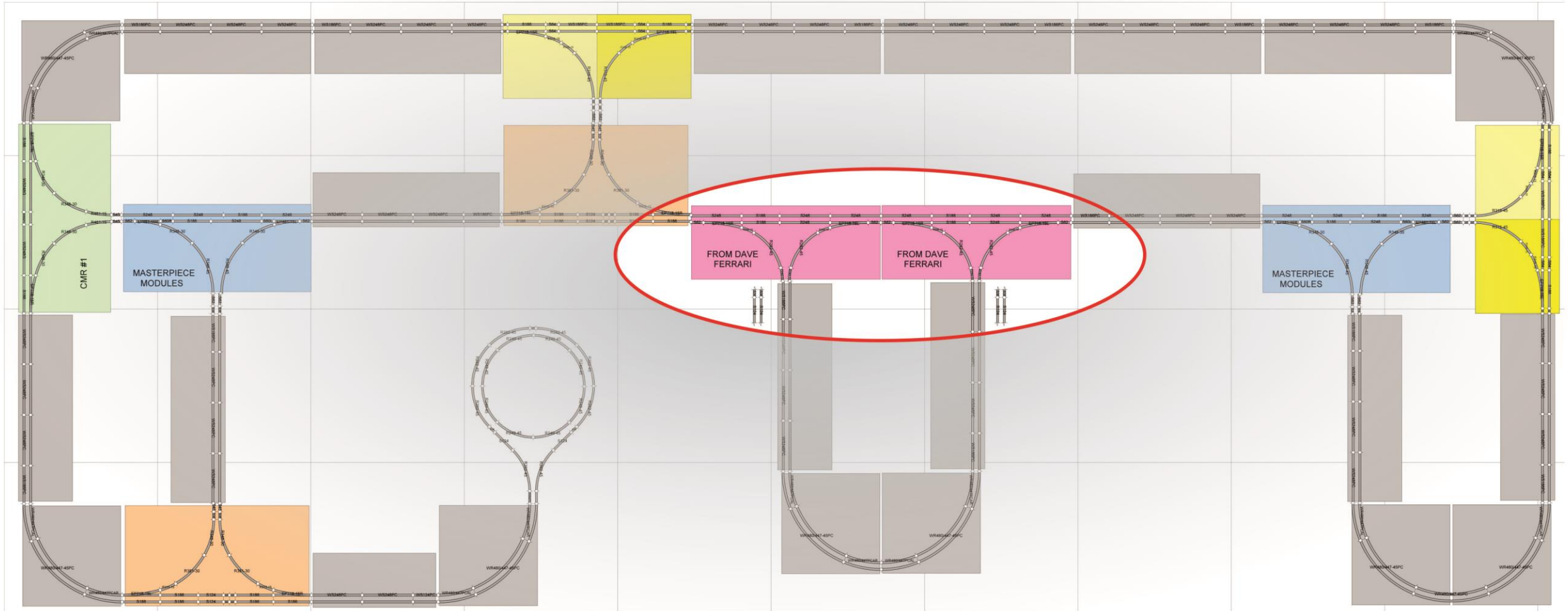




With a little change of the straight track pieces the second version of CMR's Branchline junction can be constructed in left and right sections for ease of transport and storage. The design of the one on the right started as 2 pieces. The 2 halves of the junctions can be used in some creative ways . . .

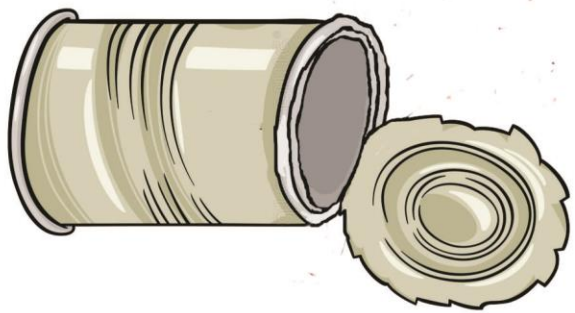


Regardless of which junction design you may choose, or already have, with the appropriate adapter tracks they can all be used in a layout using large radius corners. The junctions do not need to be all of the same design!



If your vast availability of a variety of large junctions happens to include two of the same design they can be used as a matching end to end pair for a large loop which would allow the "mini module" adapter tracks to be left at home.

THANKS
For Watching



A ZoomTRAK presentation by True North Rail