

**Mike:** I picked this layout height of 46" because it was comfortable for me. I've been a member of several clubs before where I enjoyed this height.

I'm not a tall guy. I'm five-ten-and-a-half, so I'm not in the six-foot club. The layout is tall enough for me so that my eye-to-layout distance is good. It's a little bit tall for my grandchildren to enjoy, but I can fix that with step stool – and of course they're going to get bigger.

It's just tall enough that you can get under it if you need to, but low enough that you can still have that view that you can look down on and operate it well.

**MRH: What control system do you use here?**

**Mike:** I have recently changed to NCE, I was for years an Easy-DCC guy, primarily because the system is manufactured here in Dallas / Fort Worth where I live. Keith Gutierrez and his team have been tremendous to me. I'm still a fan.



**10. Mike has one of the most elaborate programming tracks we've ever seen. It's actually a part of his previous layout that he just couldn't part with, and it fits nicely in his layout room right next to his computer.**



**11. Mike has a number of these shelf areas around the layout to avoid having folks put their drink on the layout or lay things on it. The shelf attaches to the layout with a French cleat, so they're removable when needed.**

When I was introduced to the NCE system, I really liked the throttle layout, and that they offer different types of throttles. I switched about a year-and-a-half ago, and I'm very pleased with it. I've got a combination of tethered throttles and wireless throttles.

**MRH: Interesting. So, what kind of decoders do you use and why?**

**Mike:** I use a variety of decoders. I've had friends bequeath me engines and do decoder installations for me. I've got everything from first-generation Digitrax, to Soundtraxx Tsunamis, to TCS.