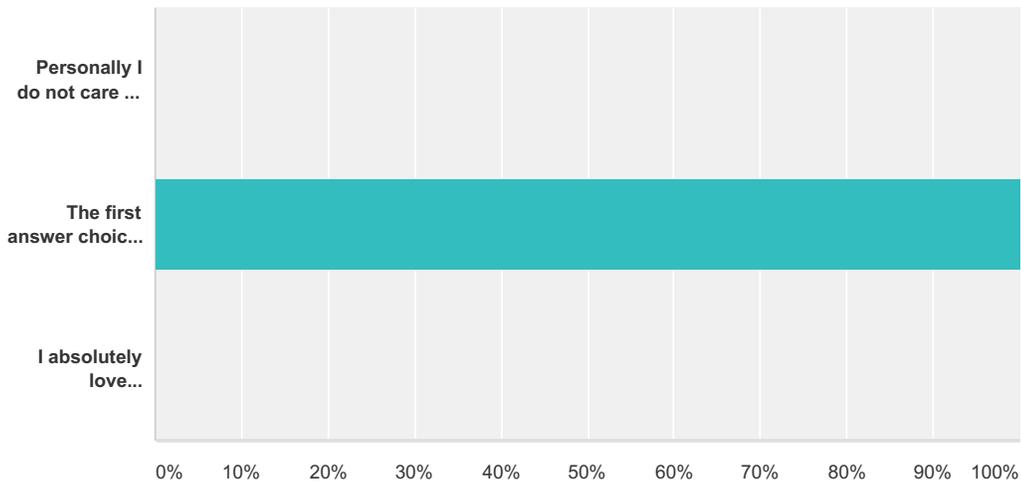


Q1 My reactions to Lionel's imaginative railroad creations:

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Personally I do not care for such cars or locomotives that depart from the reality of full size railroading and they play no part in my enjoyment of the hobby.	0.00% 0
The first answer choice seems a bit severe. I do like some of the imaginative models that Lionel has created and they do play at least a bit part in my enjoyment of the hobby, and I've described that part in the block below..	100.00% 10
I absolutely love imaginative models, and the more imaginative the better. I've explained further in the block below.	0.00% 0
Total	10

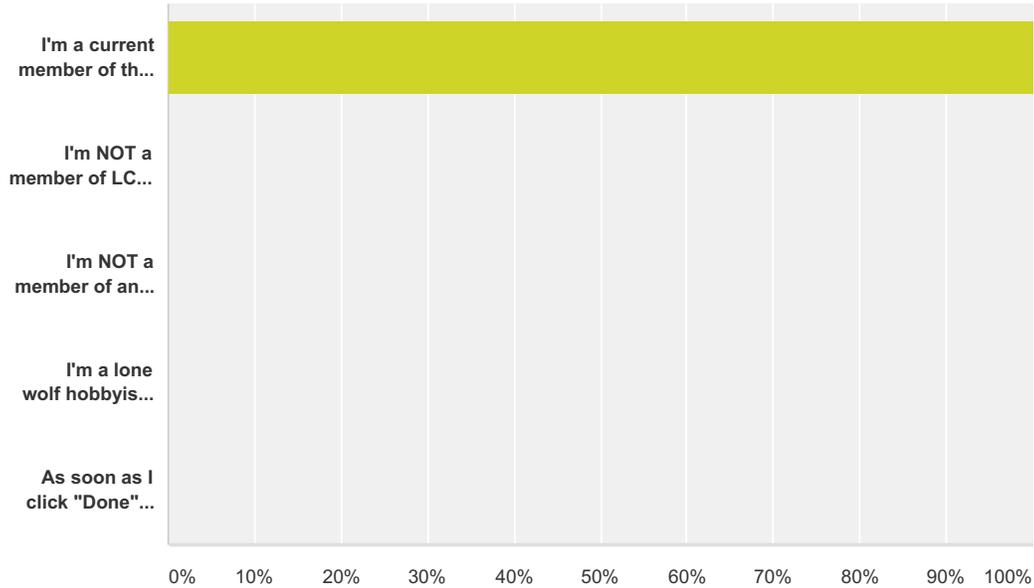
#	My thoughts, ideas, and memories on "imaginative trains":	Date
1	<p>Realistic trains are what compromise the bulk of my train empire. Now with that said, I do have a hand full of imaginative cars, for two reasons. One, they were included in sets, along side of the realistic cars, and two, many of the imaginative cars are just so cool in the way of play value for kids. Trains just going around in a circle all day might be fine for us to sit and watch, but a kid wants to see that and see some other action. They want something to catch their attention, they want to push a button and make something happen. Imaginative cars are the answer. When you think about it, most imaginative cars are pretty silly, thinking of a real railroad, but in a kid's mind, they can't be beat ! Can you imagine seeing a boxcar with glass sides containing gold bars riding through your city and parking on a dark, desolate siding over night ? Disaster ! How about a glass aquarium car ? How far down the track do you think it would get without springing a leak ! Realistically thinking, imaginative cars are absurd, but on the Lionel pike, they're pure genius. As far as imaginative cars (and accessories) go, I just pick and choose the ones that appeal to me and how I think they would attract attention. Some work for me, some don't. As far as collecting complete series of them, no.</p> <p>Thinking back in time, when you talk to the non-hobby person and mention Lionel, most likely they'll say they remember seeing some goofy car that did this, or some wild accessory that did that, not realistic at all to a real railroad. That's the joy of Lionel, there's something for everybody. If it wasn't for the imaginary stuff, I don't think Lionel would be so well remembered over the years.</p>	7/30/2016 9:16 AM

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2	<p>I believe there is a crossover category in addition to the purely fanciful and the purely realistic. I'm thinking of the Hogwarts Express and the Polar Express passenger sets (and some of their add-on cars). Both sets are nicely proportioned and detailed models of fictional trains, yet they both look, I feel, quite realistic. I can look at them in motion on a realistically landscaped layout and easily believe in their reality. I do not have to work at suspending my disbelief to accept them as models of real trains. I confess that, in my eyes, the add-on Dementors Car detracted from the "reality" of the Hogwarts set and I helped mine find a new home, and after its departure, I liked the remaining train much better again. As for the Polar Express, I've added only matching passenger cars, although I believe a few other types of cars have been offered. Perhaps my motto is "If I can believe it's real, it's fine," and I admit that my criteria for reality are becoming a little more stringent with the passage of time.</p>	7/27/2016 4:27 PM
3	<p>This is my second visit to this topic because it just occurred to me that Christmas-themed cars fit this category and because I just received an e-mail ad from a large hobby retailer that reminded me of the plethora of Christmas cars Lionel has catalogued this year. When Lionel, under previous ownership, first introduced an annual Christmas boxcar, I found it good fun, and I collected the annual car for years, amassing a goodly quantity, far beyond what I could have run in a train under the tree. Thinking only of boxcars and ignoring the tank, stock, vat, reefer, aquarium and caboose designs, this year we are being offered 13 Christmas cars! For me, this is massive overkill. There is no way I can collect them all, and if I can't have a complete thematic collection, why have any? On the contrary, this flood of Christmas-themed items has totally killed my desire to collect them, and I've already sold the early annual cars that I used to enjoy collecting. However, just so I shall not be thought a complete Scrooge, I do have and fully intend to keep (and run) the original Polar Express set with a couple of its separate-sale cars coupled on.</p>	7/27/2016 4:09 PM
4	<p>Some of the items are great, others not so much. But they are fun, so please keep them coming.</p>	7/18/2016 11:03 AM
5	<p>I absolutely favor Lionel's attempts at whimsical items. It's always been part of the Lionel tradition. I won't say that I have liked each and every fantasy product that's been made. But I applaud every effort. Lionel is about imagination and has always required some suspension of reality (that THIRD rail). For me trains have to be FUN. Those who have a problem these "flights of fancy", and only insist on REALISM, I say "Lighten up."</p>	7/14/2016 7:47 PM
6	<p>I am not so much interested in : Whimsical. I like to model what I see or what I wish to have seen. The golden age of the rails ended in my youth. I grew up in the mid-west so the granger roads are really my thing. I like BIG country railroading with low and slow drags. My grandparents had a family farm and I still remember the grain co-ops that resided along the countryside trackage. Big steam was before my time, but I can still dream about it. The coal and the ore roads exist today but with much less action for the rail viewer. I can see long drags of oil cars coming from frac-oil fields which I have named, The long grey line. The model railroad producers have missed out on modeling two very fine high-speed steamers. One CB&Q / Burlington Aeolus. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aeolus_Burlington_Steam_Streamline_locomotive_1937.jpg Boys who ran this beauty called her: "Alice the Goon" .. hardly flattering. The other steam beauty that has escaped the model creators eye is the : NYC Mercury 4-6-4. These came into my home town of Cincinnati, Ohio. Here is stock action footage. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh1McLH15cY Search time on the internet is fun if you have a cold and rainy day to view all the pictorials. One more road that is never modeled enough is the : Virginian. This coal road had interesting equipment that erred on the side of very huge. The Virginian had the "Battleship Gondola" made with 6 wheel trucks .. Never modeled by the "O" Gauge railroaders. Our hobby appeals to everyone. There is no right way to create, model and run your favorite model railroad. Have fun.</p>	7/3/2016 1:08 PM
7	<p>The imaginative models add a bit of fun to a layout. They can provide that "oh wow" to a layout when someone is enjoying your efforts in creating that special layout.</p>	7/1/2016 8:35 PM
8	<p>Although I do not collect "imaginative trains" I support those that do. I have the Coke Train from a few years ago because my wife liked it and asked me to get it. I would not pass up any train she wants me to get.</p>	6/30/2016 8:52 PM
9	<p>As a youngster, I enjoyed my operating aquarium car, cop-chasing-hobo gondola, and motorized fire car. They were fun to watch, and I never thought about any relationship to the "real world"; they were, after all, toys. As an adult in the 1970's, I was delighted to see new items from Lionel/MPC and got almost the entire set of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse Express cars (and engine and caboose); except for a run around the Christmas tree in 1978, however, the set sat on a display shelf. I bought quite a few of the early Modern Era cars featuring cartoon characters, as well as the Life Savers and Tootsie Roll tank cars. Even though I never ran and seldom displayed any of these, I enjoyed collecting them. Of late years, however, my interest has moved away from collecting to operating (maybe because I realize that more years now lie in my past than in my future), and I know my own children do not care to collect railroad models. Consequently, I have been selling my collection of "imaginative trains" and have few pieces left. My interest in buying, collecting, or operating anything other than realistic models has largely vanished along with my imaginative youth. Now I see Batman and Superman cars and wonder who is buying them and why.</p>	6/30/2016 2:52 PM

Q2 Please let us know the nature of your train club affiliation. (This question allows multiple answers so that you can select the last one regardless of your other selections.)

Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
I'm a current member of the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA).	100.00% 9
I'm NOT a member of LCCA but I AM a member of one or more of the other national train clubs (such as TCA, TTOS, LOTS, etc.)	0.00% 0
I'm NOT a member of any national train club but I AM a member of an organized local club.	0.00% 0
I'm a lone wolf hobbyist and am not a member of any organized train club at all.	0.00% 0
As soon as I click "Done" at the end of this TRAIN TALK session, I'm joining LCCA or renewing my membership today!	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 9	

#	Do you have some connection to or interest in the toy train hobby that is not included above? Perhaps you have a history with full-size railroads? Let us know!	Date
1	I've returned to this discussion several times as new thoughts occurred to me, so, to keep from skewing the participation stats too much, I have not checked any of the membership categories above during this visit. Although I was a member of all the major clubs (and some less than major) at one time, I've currently maintained membership only in LCCA and TCA.	7/27/2016 4:32 PM
2	I belong to other train clubs, but LCCA is by far the best in my opinion !	7/18/2016 11:05 AM
3	Also TCA and LOTS.	6/30/2016 8:53 PM
4	Clubs are becoming less and less appealing to me, and I've let all my memberships expire except for LCCA and TCA. I dislike traveling so that pretty much rules out attendance at conventions; my buying of new items has all but stopped which means that club buy/sell/trade publications have little value for me; and the club magazines are the only benefit I generally receive from membership. Whether those alone are worth the annual membership fee is something I debate with myself more and more every year.	6/30/2016 2:58 PM