



## The Train Man

As we all get ready for the upcoming Christmas season, if you are planning to incorporate a model train under your Christmas Tree or into your displays, now is the time to start to shop. I mentioned in my last article that O-Gauge is your best option for durability and reliable performance (by far).

There are many options available to you, and prices will vary based upon the features you may desire. At the top of the price range, Christmas Train Sets now have remote control together with Blue Tooth options. These features make operating your train sets so much easier.

Additionally, make sure the train set you select comes with a transformer. Otherwise, this will be an item you will have to purchase separately. Transformers provide power to run your new train set. Some sets come with track, but you will typically find that this supply is insufficient with what you will need, so plan on purchasing additional track.

Let's go down memory lane for a bit. Seventeen years ago, the movie The Polar Express was first released into theaters. Nothing in the past seventy years has had such a greater impact with integrating model trains into Christmas celebrations. The Polar Express sets are by far the most popular train sets sold in the long history of Lionel Trains. I ordered two

Lionel Polar Express sets before the movie was released as I knew that they would be almost impossible to find later in that year. I was so correct as Polar Express train sets were selling at 5-10 times the retail price, if you could find one. A Polar Express set is still a wonderful choice for under your Christmas Tree or in your display. This set has undergone many improvements since it was first introduced. We run two versions in our North Pole/Polar Express display.



There are many options to purchase a new Christmas Train set. Amazon, eBay and the Big Box stores, but without a doubt, the best source is your local Lionel Train Shop. If you have never owned a train set before, they will be extremely helpful in making sure you have all the supplies that you need for a perfect installation. You also will have a helpful resource if you run into any difficulties once you get home. All other choice will leave you with a big box to go home with and then you are on your own.

No local Lionel Train Store in your area, just e-mail me at [bv@fairpoint.net](mailto:bv@fairpoint.net) and I will be pleased to give you options that will work for you. Good luck in your hunt.