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# A GERMAN TO ENGLISH MODEL RAILROADING GLOSSARY

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National Toy Train Library

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## About the Editors

*Dirk Hertel:* His lifelong fascination with trains began in 1960s Germany where train travel was part of daily life. During these years, operating model trains in gauges 0 and TT became one of his favorite pastimes. After earning his PhD in imaging science at the Technical University Dresden, he worked in photographic research. A 1993 visit to The London Toy and Model Museum inspired him to collect British-outline 0 gauge clockwork trains. He is a member of the Hornby Railway Collectors Association (HRCA) and the Train Collectors Society (TCS), contributing articles on the history of German toy and model train makers. In 1998, Dirk moved from Germany to Boston, MA and joined the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts and the Mystic Valley Railway Society. At the MVRS, he produces the New England Railroading Calendar and writes articles on railroad history for the *Waybill*. Since joining the TCA in 2011, he has participated in NETCA meets by setting up show layouts.

*Tyler Keck:* Tyler's interest in toy trains began when he was a young child pushing wooden floor trains around his room. Though his interest in toy trains laid dormant for many years, it was reignited when he began working for the Train Collectors Association. Tyler worked for TCA for over three years serving in the National Toy Train Library as the library assistant and then the interim librarian until August 2022. Since then, Tyler became a member of TCA. His interest in foreign languages started when he began taking German classes in middle school. He continued to study the language throughout both high school and college. While attending Millersville University of Pennsylvania, he spent a semester in Germany studying at Philipps-University Marburg where he double-majored in History and German studies. Tyler graduated from Millersville University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's degree in History and a minor in German. He is currently enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is pursuing a Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

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# National Toy Train Library

## German to English Glossary

**Introduction:** Included in this resource are vocabulary words readers will often encounter when paging through primary and secondary sources on German toy train and model railroading manufacturers. In other words, this is not a comprehensive German dictionary, but rather a glossary of toy train and model railroading terms. Like all glossaries, this one cannot pretend to be complete. If readers find omitted words, the editors can assure them it was not intentional. The purpose of this resource is not to explain the intricacies of German grammar, but rather for users to be able to identify key and common terms related to toy trains and model railroading. If readers find their grammatical curiosities piqued, we encourage them to find a reputable print or online source on the subject. We welcome any comments, criticisms, and suggestions readers think may be of help in preparing future editions.

**Glossary Guide:** To make it easy for users, the glossary is setup in alphabetical order. Readers will also notice each term follows the same sequence and rules on notation. Below is an explanation on notation for nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

**Nouns:** Reading from left to right, the word appears in German first. Next, if the German word is a noun, the definite article in the nominative case appears in italics. For example Bahnhof, the German word for train station, is followed by its definite article *der*. Definite articles such as *der*, *die*, *das* are the equivalent to the English article *the*. If the word is not a noun, it does not have an article. Thus, that space is left blank.

After the definite article, there are a set of angled brackets seen here < > that have two parts separated by a comma < , >. The first part of the bracket denotes the possessive form of the noun. The second part represents the plural form of the noun. For instance Spielzeug, the German word for toy, is followed by < [e]s, e>. The possessive form of Spielzeug would thus be Spielzeuges or Spielzeugs. Example sentence, “Die Farbe des Spielzeugs ist verrostet”, which translates to, “The toy’s paint is rusted.” In most cases, the possessive form in German is constructed by adding an es or s to the end of the root word. When the letter e is bracketed in this manner [e] this indicates the possessive form can be written with or without the letter e. Please note, some possessive nouns in German remain unchanged from their root word. This special case is noted in the glossary by adding a hyphen after the first angled bracket like this < -. Brücke, the German word for bridge, is an example of a term, which remains unchanged in its possessive form. Consequently, the possessive form of Brücke is Brücke. Notice how es and s are not added to the end of the root word. Please be aware definite articles of possessive nouns can change from their original form.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the second part of the angled brackets following the comma represents the plural form of the noun. In most cases, the plural form in German is constructed by adding either an e, n, en or s to the end of the root word. There are special cases though where the plural noun does not differ from its singular form. One example is Güterwagen, which is the German word for freight car. Both the plural and singular form of Güterwagen is

Güterwagen. Plural nouns that do not deviate from their singular forms are noted in the glossary by adding a hyphen after the comma and before the second angled bracket like this , ->. Additionally, some singular nouns go through a vowel shift when they transition to plural nouns. For instance Zug, the German word for train, changes to Züge in its plural form. The umlaut above the letter u signifies that the vowel is now rounded. Please note that the letter e is also added to the end of the plural form of Zug. In the glossary, any noun whose plural form undergoes a vowel shift is written out in its entirety before the second angled bracket. Just like with possessive nouns, the definite articles of plural nouns can vary from their original form.

After the set of angled brackets, the part of speech is listed for each term. The part of speech is separated from the English definition by an extended hyphen. When appropriate, commonly used abbreviations are included in this glossary. These abbreviations are in parenthesis. For nouns, readers will find abbreviations located between the word and the definite articles. For example, Elektrolokomotive, which is the German word for electric locomotive, is commonly abbreviated or referred to as an Ellok or E-Lok. Please see graphic #1 for an example of how abbreviations will appear in the glossary. Additionally, some terms include examples in their definitions. For instance in the definition of the German word Spur, which means gauge in English, a list of different gauges is included.

Caution, all nouns in German are capitalized regardless if they are proper or not.

To better illustrate the format of the nouns included in this glossary, please refer to the graphic below.

### Graphic #1

|                  |              |                  |                 |                   |                |   |                           |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Bahnhof</b>   | <b>(Bf)</b>  | <i>der</i>       | < [e]s,         | <b>Bahnhöfe</b> > | <b>noun</b>    | - | <b>train station</b>      |
| Word             | abbreviation | definite article | possessive form | plural form       | part of speech |   | definition                |
| <b>Spielzeug</b> |              | <i>das</i>       | < [e]s,         | <b>e</b> >        | <b>noun</b>    | - | <b>toy, an object ...</b> |
| Word             |              | definite article | possessive form | plural form       | part of speech |   | definition                |

**Adjectives:** In this glossary, readers will find adjectives follow the same basic format as nouns. Starting from left to right, the adjective in German appears first. Since adjectives do not have articles, the space immediately to the right of the word is left blank. Next, there are a set of angled brackets < > that have two parts separated by a comma < , >. In the case of adjectives, both parts of the angled brackets represent the addition of adjective endings to the end of the root word.

The first part denotes the comparative adjective form. While the second part shows the superlative form. Let's take the adjective big for example. The comparative form of big is bigger. Thus, the comparative adjective ending for bigger are the letters er. Next, the superlative form of big is biggest.

In this case, the letters est are the superlative adjective ending. Therefore, the angled brackets of big would look like this in the glossary, < bigger, biggest>. Notice how both forms of big are written out in their entirety. German adjectives will follow the same format in the glossary. See the graphic below for an example.

### Graphic #2

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|             |                  |                  |                |   |                  |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---|------------------|
| <b>groß</b> | < größer,        | am größten>      | adjective      | - | big, large, tall |
| Word        | comparative form | superlative form | part of speech |   | definition       |

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Please note the letters am before the superlative form of groß in graphic #2. The German word am in this context is the equivalent to the English article the. Meaning am größten would translate to, the biggest. Also, notice how the letter o has an umlaut over it in both the comparative and superlative forms. Just like with nouns, the umlaut signals there has been a vowel shift and the letter o is now rounded.

After the set of angled brackets, the part of speech is listed. Just like with the nouns, the English definition is separated from the part of speech by an extended hyphen.

**Verbs:** Like both nouns and adjectives, verbs are organized using the identical sequence and notation. Reading from left to right, the German verb stands first. Verbs, like adjectives, do not have articles so the space directly to the right of the verb is left blank. Next is the angled set of brackets. The part of speech then follows. After the part of speech is the definition of the verb in English. The information denoted within the angled set of brackets is unique to the verbs. Much the same way as the information enclosed in the angled set of brackets for both nouns and adjectives are unique to those parts of speech.

The first part of the angled brackets denotes the simple past form of the verb. The second part represents the past participle. Let us examine the German verb spielen, which means to play in English. The simple past form of spielen is spielte. The past participle of spielen is gespielt. See graphic #3 for a visual aide.

### Graphic #3

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|                |             |                 |                |   |            |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---|------------|
| <b>spielen</b> | < spielte,  | gespielt>       | verb           | - | to play    |
| Word           | simple past | past participle | part of speech |   | definition |

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# Glossary

## Aa

**Abdrücksignal** *das* < s, e> noun – (1) a yard signal used to control the shunting of freight cars, (2) a protection signal used for sidings in freight yards.

**abfahren** < fuhr ab, abgefahren> verb – to depart, departed, can refer to a passenger train departing a train station.

**Abfahrt** *die* < -, en> noun – departure of passenger trains.

**Abstellgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – siding, spur or it can refer to a piece of track that allows trains to exit the main rail line.

**Abteilwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – compartment car or coach, with earlier forms having two exterior doors, one on each side to access both compartments, later examples include interior corridors on one side to access both compartments, also referred to as a corridor coach, example third class compartment car (3. Klasse Abteilwagen).

**Abzweigung** *die* < -, en> noun – bifurcation of a branch line.

**Achse** *die* < -, n> noun – axle a central shaft for a rotating wheel, example four axle German passenger car (Vierachsige deutsche Personenwagen).

**Achslager** *das* < s, -> noun – journal box, also known as an axle box in Great Britain, is located at the end of each axle under a railway wagon, coach or locomotive; contains either roller or plain bearings, designed to transfer the weight of the car or locomotive and cargo to the axle while allowing the wheels to rotate and the axles to stay lubricated.

**Airbrush** *der* < s, s> noun – airbrush, an air powered system, which sprays various types of media including paint, commonly used by model railroaders.

**alt** < älter, am ältesten> adjective – old, antique, ancient, antiquated, used to describe the age of toy and model trains.

**amerikanisch** < amerikanischer, am amerikanischsten> adjective – American, often used to describe the style of locomotives, rolling stock and accessories in toy train catalogs and other resources.

**ankommen** < kam an, angekommen> verb – to arrive, a passenger train which has arrived.

**Ankunft** *die* < -, en> noun – the arrival of a passenger train.

**Anlage** *die* < -, n> noun – layout, model train layout, can be constructed on the floor (Fußbodenanlage), a table or on bench work.

**Anlagenplatte** *die* < -, n> noun – bench work, layout table, layout platform, a structure which supports track, scenery, and other accessories; typically built using plywood and open frame construction, although foldable tables are also commonly used as temporary bench work.

**Anschlussgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – (1) refers to a special piece of track with terminal clamps for the power cable to feed electrical power to the track in model railroading. (2) In railroading, it refers to a spur track, which serves railway customers.

**Anschlusskabel** *das* < s, -> noun – connection cable or connector cable; also known as a power cable in the United States.

**Anschlussklemme** *die* < -, n> noun – terminal clamp, feeder clip, lug.

**Anschlussmast** *der* < [e]s, en> noun – catenary feeder mast or catenary feeder pole.

**Antrieb** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – source of mechanical power used to move a train; often combined with another noun to denote the type of mechanical power. Examples include Dampfantrieb (steam power), Uhrwerkantrieb (spring or mechanical power) and Elektroantrieb (electrical power).

**Arbeiter** *der* < s, -> noun – worker, laborer, often found on layouts as miniature figures.

**aufbauen** < baute auf, aufgebaut> verb – to construct, to build or to set up an object such as a kit or a layout.

**aufgleisen** < aufgleiste, aufgegleist > verb – to rail, railed, the action of placing a locomotive, rail car, etc. on the track; also can refer to the action of re-railing.

**Aufgleisgerät** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – rerailer, a device for placing cars and locomotives on the track.

**Auflage** *die* < -, n> noun – edition, printing, print run or production run, example limited edition (limitierte Auflage).

**Aufzugsschlüssel** *der* < s, -> noun – a winding key; a key used for winding up the main spring of a clockwork locomotive.

**Ausgleichgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – add-on track or spare track; also refers to a piece of track of non-standard length required for closing gaps in track figures with switches.

**Auslösegleis** *das* < es, e> noun – activation track, commonly triggers sounds, movements and lights.

**Aussenbogenweiche** *die* < -, en> noun – a switch located along a curved piece of track that branches off to the outside of the curve (also see Innenbogenweiche).

**Aussenzylinder** *der* < s, -> noun – steam-cylinders located outside the main frame (outside of the wheels) of steam locomotives (also see Innenzylinder).

**Aussichtswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – observation car; a specialized passenger car designed to give riders sweeping views of the outdoor scenery. Generally operated as the last car on a passenger train, often includes windows located on the rear of the car.

**Ausziehgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – adjustable track.

**Auto** *das* < s, s> noun – car, automobile; a motorized vehicle on wheels that is not driven on tracks. Model cars also known as toy cars can be found on layouts as accessories.

**Autotransportwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – auto transport car also known as an autorack or auto carrier is designed to carry cars, SUVs and light trucks; can either be enclosed or have an opened rack system.

## **Bb**

**Bahn** *die* < -, en> noun – train, railroad, railway, also short for the German railroad companies (Deutsche Reichsbahn, Bundesbahn, Deutsche Bahn) or for streetcar (tram).

**Bahnarbeiter** *der* < s, -> noun – railroad worker; also known as a railway worker in Great Britain.

**Bahnbetriebswerk (Bw)** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – locomotive shop, a facility to service (build/rebuild) engines.

**Bahndamm** *der* < s, Bahndämme> noun – railway embankment, found on some model railroad layouts as part of the background scenery.

**Bahnhof (Bf)** *der* < [e]s, Bahnhöfe> noun – (1) literal meaning is railyard or in Great Britain train yard, (2) can also be used to refer to a train station, railway station, railroad station, depot, terminus, and in German railway terminology a station building, which is referred to as “Empfangsgebäude”.

**Bahnhofhalle** *die* < -, en> noun – train hall, train shed, can also mean concourse.

**Bahnhofslampe** *die* < -, n> noun – light fixture for illuminating platforms in train stations and track in rail yards.

**Bahnhofsvorsteher** *der* < s, -> noun – station master, station manager.

**Bahnmeisterei (Bm)** *die* < -, n> noun – the department responsible for the maintenance of railway track and catenary; “Bahnmeister” is head of the department for railway track and catenary maintenance.

**Bahnpersonal** *das* < s, -> noun – railway staff, train personnel.

**Bahnschranke** *die* < -, n> noun – crossing gate; also known as a railroad gate or a railway gate in Great Britain.

**Bahnsteig** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – train station platform.

**Bahnsteigkarte** *die* < -, en> noun – platform ticket, which was necessary for entering the platform when platforms were separated from the station concourse by barriers, these barriers were manned by ticket collectors.

**Bahnübergang (BÜ)** *der* < [e]s, Bahnübergänge> noun – an at grade railroad crossing.

**Barwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) bar car, typically carried on tourist trains (2) also refers to drink trolleys, which are pushed through passenger cars offering beverages to passengers on regular trains in Great Britain.

**Bauernhof** *der* < [e]s, Bauernhöfe> noun – farmyard, farmstead, used on model railroad layouts to create a rural scene.

**Baugröße** *die* < -, n> noun – scale in which model railroads are reproduced (also called “Nenngröße”), not to be confused with "Spur" or "Spurweite" (gauge). For example, H0 denotes scale (Baugröße) 1:87, with 16.5mm gauge (Spurweite) for standard gauge, and 9mm or 12mm for narrow gauge (H0m or H0e). LGB trains running on G gauge (45mm) track are available in 1:22.5 scale as narrow gauge trains or in 1:32 scale as standard gauge trains. For other popular scales in Germany see the entry for the word Spur.

**Baum** *der* < [e]s, Bäume> noun – tree, found on layouts as scenic accessories.

**Baumstamm** *der* < [e]s, Baumstämme> noun – logs, the trunk of a tree, tree trunk, often sold as accessories with flat cars.

**Bausatz** *der* < es, Bausätze> noun – kit, building kit or a kit that requires assembly.

**Bauteil** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – component or a part.

**Bekohlungsanlage** *die* < -, en> noun – coaling plant, which typically consists of coal bunkers, a coaling crane or chute, which is used to load coal into the tenders of steam locomotives.

**Begleitwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) caboose, a manned car located at the end of a freight train, which provided crews sleeping quarters, an observation area to inspect the train and other essential necessities; also called a brake van in Great Britain. (2) Brake vans carried a crew of railway workers much like the caboose, but also provided an auxiliary braking system on trains not fitted with continuous brakes.

**Behältertragwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – container carrying car, typically refers to a flat car specially designed or rebuilt to carry various types of smaller containers (including solids like cement or liquids like milk and beer).

**Beiwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – trailer car commonly used with street cars and tramways; can also refer to the sidecars attached to motorcycles.

**Beleuchtung** *die* < -, en> noun – lighting, illumination.

**Bergbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) mountain railway (2) can also refer to an adhesion railway through mountainous terrain, (3) a rack or cog railway, (4) a funicular railway worked by a cable and stationary engine or (5) a suspended cable railway or aerial tramway.

**Bergbahnaussichtswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – mountain railway observation car; describes passenger cars with extra-large windows, which are used on mountain railways to provide passengers with better views of the scenery.

**Beschriftung** *die* < -, en> noun – letters, symbols and numbers on rolling stock; used for identification of railway-specific information and advertising.

**Beschriftungsbogen** *der* < s, -> noun – a transfer sheet (dry or wet) with letters, numbers and symbols; used to apply letters, numbers and symbols onto the sides of model trains and rolling stock.

**Betriebsartenschalter** *der* < s, -> noun – a control switch that often has multiple different operating modes.

**Betriebshof** *der* < [e]s, Betriebshöfe> noun –railyard, also known as a train yard in Great Britain. In Germany this term is interchangeable with *Bahnbetriebswerk* or *Betriebswerk* (locomotive depot) and *Betriebswagenwerk* (maintenance facility for railcars).

**Betriebswerk (Bw)** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – railyard, also known as a train yard in Great Britain, short for *Bahnbetriebswerk*.

**Bettgestellwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – “bed frame” car, a specially designed gondola used to transport certain bulk goods.

**Bierwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – beer car, used to transport kegs of beer, typically sold as a novelty freight car either individually or in a set.

**Biohof** *der* < [e]s, Biohöfe> noun – organic farm, used to create a rural scene on layouts by modelers; sold either as a kit or a set.

**Blech** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – metal that is formed into a thin sheet, sheet metal; common examples include tinsplate, brass, etc.

**Blecheisenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – tinsplate railway, tinsplate trains; used to describe early toy and model trains made from pressed tinsplate.

**Blechschiene** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) rail or track made from tinsplate; sectional tinsplate track typically featuring two or three ties per section (2) hi-rail.

**Bodenläufer** *der* < s, -> noun – floor runner; toy trains pushed or pulled across the floor, which do not run on track or rail.

**Bogenbrücke** *die* < -, en> noun – arched bridge, typically constructed using stones, but also can refer to arched concrete or steel bridges; found on some model train layouts.

**Bremse** *die* < -, n> noun – brake, used to control acceleration downhill or to facilitate deceleration of railway cars and locomotives; also used to ensure parked railway cars stay immobilized.

**Bremser** *der* < s, -> noun – brakeman.

**Bremserbühne** *die* < -, n> noun – brakeman’s platform.

**Bremserhaus** *das* < s, -> noun – brakeman’s cab or brakeman’s compartment.

**Bremsgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – braking track; a special section of track outfitted with a mechanism, which triggers the brake in locomotives. Mostly used to stop clockwork trains.

**Bremsschuh** *der* < s, e> noun – the brake shoe is the part of the braking system which carries the brake block on trains.

**Bretterwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a plank boarded car, whose sides are constructed using removable wooden boards.

**Brücke** *die* < -, n> noun – bridge, an elevated structure built over obstructions such as valleys and rivers, which carry people, goods, trains and vehicles across its span; found on some model railroad layouts.

**Brückenaufnahme** *die* < -, n> noun – bridge mounting section; a piece that connects the bridge piers to the bridge.

**Brückendreierstein** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – triple-layer segments used in building kits to assemble stone bridge piers.

**Brückeneinzelstein** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – a single-layer segment used in building kits to construct stone bridge piers.

**Brückenpfeiler** *der* < s, -> noun – the pier or pillar of a bridge or viaduct.

**Brückenstellwerk** *das* < s, e> noun – bridge signal tower; a specially designed signal tower where the control room spans the tracks allowing for an unobstructed view up and down the line.

**Bühne** *die* < -, n> noun – platform, where passengers board and disembark passenger trains.

**Bummelzug** *der* < s, Bummelzüge > noun – a slow moving train; colloquially referred to as a stopping train in Germany.

**Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD)** *die* < -, -> noun – Federal Republic of Germany, which was formally established in 1949 from the three merged western zones of Allied occupation, which were controlled by the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and France. The BRD was dissolved after German reunification in 1990. Informally known as West Germany in English.

**Bundesverband Deutscher Eisenbahn-Freunde e.V. (BDEF)** < -, -> noun – Federal Association of German Railfans; also known as BDEF. BDEF is an organization that represents both model railroad clubs and other railroad enthusiasts groups. More than 300 clubs and associations are members of the BDEF.

## Cc

**Circuswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – circus car, designed to carry circus animals or rides; can be sold individually or in a set.

**Containertragwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – container car, a specially designed car able to carry large shipping containers.

## Dd

**Dachlaufsteg** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – roof catwalk, roof gangway, gang board, roof platform; used by railway personnel to walk from freight car to freight car or to access brake wheels, hatches or other equipment located on the top of freight cars.

**Dampf** *der* < [e]s, Dämpfe> noun – steam or vapor generated by heating water to boiling temperatures and pressurizing it in an enclosed fixed volume space (example boiler).

**Dampfdom** *der* < s, Dampfdöme> noun – steam dome, a dome or cylindrical shaped extension located on top of the boiler. Designed in a barrel shape to collect steam before it is sent to the cylinders.

**Dampflokomotive (Dampflok)** *die* < -, n> noun – steam locomotive, a locomotive that produces its pulling power through a steam engine and is fueled by combustible materials that produce steam in a boiler.

**Dampfpfeife** *die* < -, en> noun – steam whistle, a whistle operated by steam from the locomotive boiler.

**Dauerentkuppler** *der* < s, -> noun – a piece of equipment attached to a segment of track that uncouples train cars. This device is permanently placed in a fixed position along the track.

**Dekorplatte** *die* < -, n> noun – a decorative plate or board designed with imitated stone or brickwork; used on layouts to build retaining walls and platforms, etc.

**deutsch** < deutscher, am deutschesten> adjective – German, may refer to the German language in Germany or to the ethnic group of people native to Central Europe.

**Deutsche Bahn (DB)** *die* < -, -> noun – Deutsche Bahn, a German railway company founded in 1994 after German reunification occurred in October 1990. DB was formed to operate the railways of both the former East (DDR) and West Germany (BRD). DB was created as a single, uniform private joint-stock company with the Federal Republic of Germany being its single shareholder.

**Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB)** *die* < -, en> noun – German Federal Railway, the state railway of the Federal Republic of Germany (BRD), was formed on September 7, 1949 from the remains of the Deutsche Reichsbahn. At the time of its formation, Deutsche Bundesbahn was organized to serve West Germany (BRD). After German reunification in 1994, Deutsche Bundesbahn merged with the East German Deutsche Reichsbahn to form Deutsche Bahn.

**Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR)** *die* < -, -> noun – German Democratic Republic, also informally referred to as East Germany in English, was established in 1949 from the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. The DDR became part of the Soviet Union's Eastern Bloc. The DDR was dissolved in 1990 after German reunification.

**Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR)** *die* < -, en> noun – the German national railway system, which was created in 1920 from the merger of the individual state railways of the former German Empire. This consolidation occurred after World War I. In 1924, the state-owned Deutsche Reichsbahn-

Gesellschaft (German Imperial Railway Company/DRG) was reorganized as a publicly held company and created to operate the national railway system. All profits made by the DRG went to pay war reparations enacted under the Dawes Plan after World War I. In 1937, the Third Reich placed the DRG under its control in preparations for World War II and renamed the DRG to Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR). After World War II, the DR was broken up. In the three western zones under Allied control, which subsequently became the Federal Republic of Germany (BRD), the DRG was replaced with the Deutsche Bundesbahn. In the Soviet occupied eastern zone, which became the German Democratic Republic (DDR), the name Deutsche Reichsbahn was retained, despite its negative connotations with the Third Reich and the Holocaust. The DDR maintained the name for legal reasons as the western Allies designated the Deutsche Reichsbahn as the sole railway operator serving West Berlin and the line which connected West Berlin (while transiting DDR territory) with West Germany. In 1994, Deutsche Reichsbahn merged with the Deutsche Bundesbahn to form Deutsche Bahn.

**Diesellokomotive (Diesellok)** *die* < -, n> noun – diesel locomotive, a locomotive which derives its power from a diesel engine.

**Dochtbrenner** *der* < s, -> noun – wick burner; used to heat boilers with alcohol in toy steam engines.

**Doppeldecker-Straßenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – double-deck street car, double-deck tram.

**Doppellitze** *die* < -, n> noun – double or two-stranded flexible fabric insulated wire, which comes in various different colors.

**Doppelkreuzungsweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – double-slip switch.

**Doppelstocktriebzug** *der* < [e]s, Doppelstocktriebzüge> noun – a train consisting of self-powered bi-level passenger railcars.

**Doppelstockwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – bi-level, double-deck or double-decker passenger railcars.

**Doppelstockzug** *der* < [e]s, Doppelstockzüge> noun – double deck passenger train.

**Dorf** *das* < [e]s, Dörfer> noun – village, small town, a common scenery theme found on layouts.

**Draisine** *die* < -, n> noun – small light railcar powered by hand, pedals or a small engine; mostly used for track inspection and maintenance (example Bahnmeister-Draisine).

**Drehgestell** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – bogey, bogie; also known as a truck in North America, is a chassis that carries a wheelset and axles underneath various types of rolling stock.

**Drehgestellwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – railcar with wheelsets held in by trucks or bogies.

**Drehscheibe** *die* < -, en> noun – turntable, used in termini to turn around locomotives and their tenders; found in the center or in front of roundhouses to provide locomotives and their tenders access to individual stalls.

**Drehschemel** *der* < s, -> noun – a rotatable fixture mounted on top of a flatcar; designed to hold long loads in place that extend over two railcars, such as telegraph poles or rails; known as bolster wagons in Great Britain.

**Drehschemelwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a flat car, which has a rotatable fixture (Drehschemel) mounted on its deck for holding long loads that extend over two flatcars securely in place, such as telegraph poles or rails.

**Drehstrom** *die* < -, Drehströme> noun – three-phase AC electrical power.

**Drehstuhl** *der* < s, Drehstühle> noun – the part of a track switch or turnout with swivelable assembly that holds the switch rails or point blades in place.

**Drehstuhlweiche** *die* < -, en> noun – track switch or turnout featuring a simplified design without a frog; uses swivelable switch rails that eliminate any gaps. Often used on tinsplate toy train layouts for lower cost and improved switching reliability.

**Dreileitersgleis** *das* < s, e> noun – electric track with three rails, 3-rail track.

**Dreischwellengleis** *das* < s, e> noun – tinsplate track featuring sections that have no more than three ties.

**Dreilicht-Spitzensignal** *das* < s, e> noun – triple headlights is a railway signal for leading traction, control cars, and railcars in almost all of Europe. Older leading traction or control may only have double headlights (Zweilicht-Spitzensignal).

**Dreiwegweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – three-way switch or turnout.

**Deutsche Reichsbahngesellschaft (DRG)** *die* < -, en> noun – German Imperial Railway Company, which operated from 1920 to 1937, see Deutsche Reichsbahn for more information.

**Drossel** *die* < -, n> noun – throttle, a device designed to control the speed of a model train.

**Durchgangszug (D-Züge)** *der* < s, Durchgangszüge> noun – (1) literally means walk-through train; a passenger train where the individual compartments are accessible from a corridor. Passenger cars are connected by movable covered gangways so that passengers could access dining cars, sleeping cars, etc. while the train was in motion. This type of train is no longer used by the Deutsche Bahn. (2) Recently used to refer to a fast train or express train.

## Ee

**Echtdampflokomotive** *die* < -, en> noun – a toy or model locomotive powered by a steam engine.

**Eilgueterzug (EG)** *der* < s, Eilgueterzüge> noun – a fast moving freight train.

**Eilzug** *der* < [e]s, Eilzüge> noun – literally means a “train in a hurry”, which is a medium-distance train with less frequent stops than slow moving frequently stopping trains; this train stops more

frequently than express trains. Equates to ‘fast-stopping train’ or ‘semi-fast train’ in Great Britain. No longer used in Germany after it was replaced with ‘Regionalexpress’.

**Eilzugwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a passenger car used in middle-distance trains; often shorter in length than passenger cars used in express trains.

**Einheitswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – standard passenger car, introduced in the 1920s by the German Imperial Railway Company (Deutsche Reichsbahn-Gesellschaft) to unify the vast range of different passenger car designs handed down from the former private and regional railways, which operated during the reign of the German Empire. Einheitswagen were identified by a class code followed by the year of introduction, for example B4i-29.

**einpoliger Schalter** *der* < -, -> noun – single pole single throw switch (SPST), an on-off switch located on a single line of an electric circuit.

**Eisenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) literal translation is “iron track”, also can be used to mean (2) railroad or railway, (3) train, (4) train set or (5) railway company

**Eisenbahnrad** *das* < [e]s, Eisenbahnräder> noun – train wheel.

**Elektrizität** *die* < -, -> noun – electricity, a form of energy.

**Elektrolokomotive (Elektrolok, E-Lok, Ellok)** *die* < -, n> noun – electric locomotive, which sources its power from electricity by either connecting to overhead lines, a third rail or having a battery or a super capacitor stored on board.

**Elektronik** *die* < -, en> noun – electronics; often used in model trains to refer to a specific type of control or sound system.

**Elektroweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – electrically powered track switch.

**Elektro-Entkupplungsgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – electrically powered uncoupler track.

**Empfangsgebäude** *das* < s, -> noun – station building, also referred to as “Bahnhof”, features passenger facilities including ticket offices, waiting rooms, restaurants, restrooms, shops, etc.

**entgleisen** < entgleiste, entgleist> verb – to derail, when a train leaves the tracks unintentionally.

**Entgleisung** *die* < -, en> noun – derailment, occurs when locomotives, train cars or both leave the track.

**Epoche** *die* < -, n> noun – era, an historical period of time bound together by similar characteristics, can refer to different eras of steam locomotives, train design, and rail travel.

**Epoche I** < -, -> noun – Era 1 is a German model railroading era that begins in 1835 and ends in 1920. It is defined largely by steam locomotives. Electric locomotives were not introduced until after 1900 when electricity became more widespread. It is also known as the Länderbahn Era as almost every German state had its own railway. Toy and model trains were first introduced to the consumer during this era.

**Epoche II** < -, -> noun – Era 2 is a German model railroading era that begins in 1921 and roughly ends in 1949. During this time-period, the state railways were largely dissolved and a national railroad was created called the Deutsche Reichsbahn. For that reason Era 2 is also referred to as the Reichsbahn Era during which steam locomotives were still the most common locomotive type used, but electric locomotives were gaining popularity.

**Epoche III** < -, -> noun – Era 3 is a German model railroading era that starts in 1950 and approximately ends in 1970. This era marked the decline of steam and the rise of diesel and electric locomotives. The Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR) continued to operate only in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) while in the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) it was superseded by the newly founded Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB). This era is also recognized as the Postwar Era like in the United States. In East Germany, this era began with double-track main lines being de-electrified and reduced to a single track as part of the war reparations imposed by the Soviet Union against the East Germans. In West Germany, this period is also known as the Economic Miracle (Wirtschaftswunder), which was spawned by the Marshall Plan.

**Epoche IV** < -, -> noun – Era 4 is a German model railroading era that roughly begins in 1971 and ends in 1990. By the end of this period, both the Deutsche Bundesbahn and the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR) ceased using steam locomotives. The DR rebuilt its single-track main lines to double-track and re-electrified them, prioritizing electrification over dieselization. Modernization and integration defined this era.

**Epoche V** < -, -> noun – Era 5 is a German model railroading era that starts in 1991 and approximately ends in 2007. After German unification, the Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB) and the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR) merged in 1994 and consolidated operations as the private railroad company Deutsche Bahn. High-speed rail dominates Deutsche Bahn's new service along with more Inter-European long distance trains. This era is marked by unification and privatization.

**Epoche VI** < -, -> noun – Era 6 is a German model railroading era that roughly starts in 2008 and runs through the present. It is also referred to as the Current Era.

**Ergänzungsset** *das* < s, s> noun – additional set or an extension set, used to increase the size of a layout.

**Erweiterungspackung** *die* < -, en> noun – expansion set

**Erzmuldenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – hot metals car; a freight car constructed to haul hot metals such as aluminum and iron.

**Esse** *die* < -, n> noun – smokestack, chimney, designed to guide away smoke and steam from the steam locomotive's engine; acts as an exhaust system.

**Express** *der* < es, e> noun – express train, a train capable of reaching high rates of speeds while making minimal stops.

## Ff

**Fahrdienstleiter (FdL)** *der* < s, -> noun – dispatcher, a person responsible for operation of trains at a station or on a section of line.

**Fahrdienstvorschrift (FV)** *die* < -, en> noun – a manual for the operation of trains; a basic set of rules outlining proper rail operations for public railways.

**Fahrgestell** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – (1) chassis, frame, undercarriage or (2) powered truck.

**Fahrdrahtklemme** *die* < -, n> noun – catenary wire clip.

**Fahrkarte** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) literal meaning is travel card, (2) but can also refer to a railway ticket or (3) a generic ticket.

**Fahrkartenausgabe (Fka)** *die* < -, n> noun – ticket counter, ticket stand.

**Fahrkartenkontrolle** *die* < -, n> noun – ticket inspection; in the United States this task is the responsibility of the conductor, once the ticket inspection is complete valid tickets are often punched or scanned.

**Fahrkartenschalter** *der* < s, -> noun – ticket office, ticket stand, referred to as a booking office in Great Britain.

**Fahrplan** *der* < s, Fahrpläne> noun – timetable, a schedule of departing and arriving trains.

**Fahrplantafel** *die* < -, n> noun – timetable display (paper or electronic), often displayed in passenger train stations to inform riders of departure and arrival times.

**Fahrregler** *der* < s, -> noun – throttle control, controls the speed of model trains.

**Fahrreglertrafo** *der* < -, s> noun – transformer (trafo) with throttle control used to power electric model trains; some transformers come with a forward and reverse switch.

**Fahrzeug** *das* < s, e> noun – vehicle, an object used to transport people or goods.

**Fakultativwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – optional cars, multi-purpose car or interchangeable cars that can be easily adapted for use as passenger, post or freight car. Introduced in the 1880s by small regional and narrow gauge railways.

**Faßwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – keg, barrel, cask car used to transport beer and wine; referred to as a Faßwagen in Switzerland.

**Federbruch** *der* < s, Federbrüche> noun – spring breakage; applied to both suspension springs in real railroads and in the main spring in clockwork toy and model trains.

**Federpuffer** *der* < s, -> noun – sprung buffers, part of the buffer and chain coupling system used in British and European railways, where buffers absorb the push forces between railcars, and the springs take up the slack and equalize differences in distance when going around curves. Due to small radii, buffers are only ornamental and not functional in model railways.

**Federung** *die* < -, en> noun – a suspension system utilizing springs; used to alleviate the effects of uneven track. This spring suspension system is designed to prevent derailments by facilitating close contact between the wheels and the rails at all times; also used to improve comfort for passengers in passenger cars.

**Feldbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – field railway, a light narrow gauge railway used in agriculture, logging, mining and industry. During World War 1 light narrow gauge railways were used in Europe by various militaries (also known as Heeresfeldbahnen, trench railways or British War Department Railways) to move supplies to the frontlines and back.

**Feldbahndampflok** *die* < -, s> noun – a small, light steam locomotive used on narrow gauge field railways.

**Feldbahnwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – field railroad cars, smaller in size than the average freight car; used to carry crops, materials, equipment, and other agricultural supplies and products to and from farms and other rural areas, or during times of war used to carry ammunition, personnel and supplies to the frontlines and back.

**Feldspule** *die* < -, n> noun – field coil, the static coil in electric motors generating the magnetic field; constructed with a coil of wire through which current flows.

**Fernbedienung** *die* < -, en> noun – remote control, which is used on layouts. Allows users to control speed and prompt trains to brake, reverse or stop. It can also trigger whistles and other sound effects.

**Fernentkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – remote control decoupling.

**Fernreisezugwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – long distance passenger rail car; often used to describe an American “Streamliner” passenger car, which was designed to carry passengers long distances.

**Fernschnellzug (FD-Zug)** *der* < [e]s, Fernschnellzüge> noun – a passenger train, which belongs to the fastest class of express trains. Established in Germany between 1923 and World War II.

**Fernsprecher** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) literal meaning is distant speaker, (2) telephone or phone.

**Fernstelleinrichtung** *die* < -, en> noun – a device or system for remotely operating turnouts (track switches).

**Fernumsteuerung** *die* < -, en> noun – a device or system for remotely changing the direction of locomotives.

**Feststellbremse** *die* < -, n> noun – parking brake, hand-operated brake on railway cars; found mostly on freight cars. Used to prevent railway cars from moving when parked.

**Feuerwehr-Diesellok** *die* < -, s> noun – fire department diesel locomotive; often sold as a themed model locomotive to honor fire fighters or specific fire departments.

**Figur** *die* < -, en> noun – figure, figurines; often found on model railroad layouts. Sold in various scales.

**Fischtransportwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – fish transport car; designed to carry fish from the harbor to the market.

**Fixkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – a type of coupling invented by Märklin and patented in 1909. This coupling has a unique tongue and slot mechanism combined with a small cross-pin, which provides a simple yet dependable method for hand-coupling. It remained Märklin's standard coupler for all trains 0 gauge or larger.

**Flachdachbungalow** *der* < s, s> noun – flat roof bungalow; occasionally found on layouts. Sold as either a set or a kit.

**Flachwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – flat car, a freight car used to transport various types of large heavy loads on steel or wooden decks.

**Flammrohrkessel** *der* < s, -> noun – flame-tube or fire-tube boiler, a steam boiler where the hot gases from the fire pass through tubes inside the boiler. In toy and model steam locomotive, flame or fire-tube boilers are used to prevent scorching of the paintwork, which can be an issue with inexpensive pot boilers.

**Flügelsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – semaphore signal is a signal used to indicate different track conditions to train drivers by changing the angle of inclination of a pivoted 'arm'.

**Formsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – semaphore signal, see Flügelsignal for more information.

**Fracht** *die* < -, en> noun – cargo, freight; commonly referred to as goods in Great Britain.

**Führerhaus** *das* < es, Führerhäuser> noun – cab, driver's cab or engineer's cab.

**Führerstand** *der* < s, Führerstände> noun – the control stand in a locomotive; occasionally used to refer to the driver's cab.

**Führungsschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – guide rail, which is used in track switches.

**Funktionswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – action cars; typically emit sound or have some other special feature. Often triggered from the car running across a special segment of track.

**Funktionsweise** *die* < -, n> noun – operating principle or method of operation.

**Fußgängerbrücke** *die* < -, n> noun – pedestrian bridge; can be found on layouts crossing railroad tracks or geographic features such as bodies of water and valleys.

## Gg

**Gabelstaplerwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a flat car, which carries a forklift.

**Garnitur** *die* < -, en> noun – set, consist, "Zuggarnitur" also refers to a set of passenger cars, freight cars, rolling stock or other railcars.

**Gebäude** *das* < s, -> noun – a general term for a building or structure, can refer to houses, stations, sheds, offices, theaters, schools, etc.

**gebogen** < gebogener, am gebogensten> adjective – curved, bent, crooked often used to describe the shape or direction of track. Example: curved track sections (gebogene Gleise).

**Geburtstagswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – birthday car; typically sold as a boxcar, container car, tarpaulin car etc. decorated with “Happy Birthday” greetings and festive graphics. Often sold to commemorate anniversaries of organizations and companies.

**gedeckter Güterwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) literal meaning is covered freight wagon, (2) freight car with an enclosed space (boxcar) or in Great Britain box van.

**Gelenklokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – articulated locomotive, mainly used to refer to steam locomotives with one or multiple engine units that can move independent of the main frame.

**Gepäckabfertigung (Gepa)** *die* < -, en> noun – baggage office, used for checking or collecting baggage.

**Gepäckausgabe** *die* < -, n> noun – office or counter for collecting and receiving checked baggage or luggage.

**Gepäckschalter** *der* < s, -> noun – baggage counter used for checking or collecting baggage.

**Gepäckträger** *der* < s, -> noun – porter, baggage porter.

**Gepäcktriebwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a locomotive or self-propelled railcar with a compartment for transporting luggage but not passengers; used on branch lines in lieu of a separate baggage car.

**Gepäckwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – baggage car, baggage railcar; used to carry passengers’ large luggage items and small freight. Often featured accommodations for the train crew, also referred to as luggage van or guard’s van in Great Britain.

**gerade** < gerader, am geradesten> adjective – straight or even, often used to describe the shape or direction of track. Example: straight track sections (gerade Gleise).

**Geschichte** *die* < -, n> noun – history, a written or oral story about a past event, object, person or experience. Brief histories of prototypes are often included in model train catalogs.

**Getriebefett** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – gear lubricant.

**Gleichrichter** *der* < s, -> noun – rectifier, used to turn AC power into DC.

**Gleichstrom** *der* < -, Gleichströme> noun – direct current (DC current), electrical current which flows constantly or pulsed in only one direction.

**Gleis** *das* < es, e> noun – track, which consists of rails, fasteners, ties, embedded in ballast.

**Gleisanlage** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) track layout or track system, (2) track geometry or (3) track installation.

**Gleisanschlussklemme** *die* < -, n> noun – track power terminal.

**Gleisaufnahme** *die* < -, n> noun – track adapters used most for bridge piers.

**Gleisbett** *das* < s, en> noun – track bed or road bed, consisting of ballast in the form of crushed stone, in which the ties are embedded and held in place.

**Gleisbogen** *der* < s, Gleisbögen> noun – a curved section of track.

**Gleisklammer** *die* < -, n> noun – track clips.

**Gleiskontakt** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – track contact.

**Gleislänge** *die* < -, n> noun – length of track.

**Gleisplan** *der* < -, Gleispläne> noun – track diagram or a track plan.

**Gleisplanschablone** *die* < -, n> noun – track planning template, template for drawing track plans.

**Gleisselbstbau** *der* < [e]s, ten> noun – creating track from scratch instead of using commercially made track sections, scratch built track.

**Gleissperrsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – a signal used in freight yards to stop trains from entering a siding.

**Gleisstück** *das* < s, e> noun – a piece of track, a section of track.

**Gleiswaage** *die* < -, en> noun – rail scales, used to weigh train cars.

**groß** < größer, am größten> adjective – big, large or tall. Used to describe scale of model trains in comparison to each other, for example LGB equates to Lehmann Großbahnen for large-scale model trains.

**Großtrafo** *der* < -, s> noun – large transformer load.

**Großvolumen-Container** *der* < -, -> noun – hi-cube, high cube container; a box car with ISO standard length and width but increased interior height, which allows for the shipment of larger volumes of freight.

**Gußstahlwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – hot metals car; a freight car designed to carry hot molten metals such as aluminum and iron.

**Güterbahnhof** *der* < s, Güterbahnhöfe> noun – freight yard, referred to as a goods yard in Great Britain. A facility for loading and unloading freight cars and marshalling freight trains.

**Güterboden** *der* < s, Güterböden > noun – freight shed, goods shed; used for storing freight prior to loading and after offloading is complete.

**Güterexpresszug (GEX)** *der* < es, Güterexpresszüge> noun – a system set up by the Deutsche Reichsbahn to expedite freight using “Leig” units, which are special lightweight, large-capacity freight cars.

**Güterhalle** *die* < -, n> noun – freight hall, a large freight shed.

**Güterwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – generally refers to a freight car, also used in combination with adjectives such as “offener Güterwagen” (open freight car) for gondolas and “geschlossener Güterwagen” (closed freight car) for box cars.

**Güterzugbegleitwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a crew car found on freight trains, equivalent to caboose in the United States of America or break van in Great Britain.

**Güterzug mit Personenbeförderung (GmP)** *der* < es, Güterzüge mit Personenbeförderung> noun – a freight train outfitted with passenger transport. Implemented by adding a few passenger cars to a freight train, mainly used on branch lines (also see Personenzug mit Güterbeförderung).

## Hh

**Haftreifen** *der* < s, -> noun – traction tire, a type of tire found on certain locomotives. Meant to decrease wheel slip.

**Hakenkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – hook coupling; used in toy trains and comes in various designs.

**Haltepunkt (HP)** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – wayside station, station stop.

**Haltestelle** *die* < -, n> noun – transit stop, often refers to a bus stop or tram stop.

**Handdrehzscheibe** *die* < -, n> noun – manually operated turntable.

**Handweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – a manually operated track switch.

**Hauptbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – main line, the primary line between major population centers on which through trains and express trains are operated. The principal artery from which yards, spurs, branch lines, and sidings are connected.

**Hauptbahnhof (Hbf)** *der* < s, Hauptbahnhöfe> noun – (1) main railway station, (2) station on a main line, (3) terminus.

**Hauptsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – home signal; a signal controlling the entry to the next section of line. Originally the home signal governed entry into a station.

**Hauptstrecke** *die* < -, n> noun – main line, see Hauptbahn for more information.

**Haus** *das* < es, Häuser> noun – house, building, home, domicile, often sold as a kit and found on layouts.

**Heizer** *der* < s, -> noun – fireman, a train crew member who works the boiler of a steam locomotive. Responsible for tending to the fire, supplying steam to the engine, and maintaining fuel and water supplies.

**Heizkesselwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – heating boiler car, provides steam for heating passenger cars hauled by diesel or electric locomotives.

**Hemmschuh** *der* < [e]s e> noun – stop block, skid, brake shoe, carries the brake block. When the brake is applied the shoe moves and presses the block against the tread of the wheel. Originally made out of wood, but cast iron is now commonly used.

**Herzstück** *das* < -, e> noun – frog, the point where the left and right rails cross in a switch or turnout.

**Heusingersteuerung** *die* < -, en> noun – a valve gear in steam locomotives, which operates the inlet and exhaust valves of the cylinders. Invented in 1849 by Edmund Heusinger von Waldegg, largely equivalent to the system known in the English speaking world as Walschaerts valve gear.

**Hilfszugwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – maintenance car, used to perform general upkeep of the track and roadbed.

**Hintergrund** *der* < [e]s, Hintergründe> noun – backdrop, background used to continue the layout scenery above the horizon line. The backdrop on model railroad layouts are typically photos, relief models or a painting applied to a wall.

**Hochbordwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – high-sided gondola car.

**Hochgebirgshütte** *die* < -, n> noun – alpine hut or chalet, can be found on layouts. Sold either as a kit or a set.

**Hohlprofilschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – hollow profile rail made from tinplate; used in toy and hi-rail trains.

**Holzbrücke** *die* < -, n> noun – trestle, wooden bridge, which sometimes can be covered, found on layouts.

**Holzstamm** *der* < [e]s, Holzstämme> noun – tree trunk, log often sold as accessories to go along with flat cars.

**Hubschiebedachwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – removable roof freight car. The roof can be removed by lifting and sliding it off its tracks. The tracks run along the top of the car's side walls.

## Ii

**Indusi-Induktive Zugbeeinflussung** *die* < -, en> noun – train control system, which uses inductive track sensors (coils).

**Industrieschornstein** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – industrial smoke stack, large smoke stack attached to a factory or power plant. Found on layouts in industrial settings.

**Innenbeleuchtung** *die* < -, en> noun – interior lighting, often found in passenger cars, locomotives, or buildings.

**Innenbogenweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – a switch located on a curved section of track that branches off to the inside of the curve (see Aussenbogenweiche).

**Inneneinrichtung** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) interior furnishings or interior decoration, (2) interior equipment, can refer to the contents inside model passenger cars, buildings, etc.

**Innenzylinder** *der* < s, -> noun – steam-cylinders placed inside the main frame (between the wheels) of steam locomotives (see Aussenzylinder).

**Isolier-Schienenverbinder** *der* < s, -> noun – insulated rail joiner.

## **Jj**

**Janney-Kupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – automatic coupler, used mainly in North America.

## **Kk**

**Königlich Bayerische Staatseisenbahnen (K.Bay.Sts.B.)** *die* < -, -> noun – Royal Bavarian State Railways. The state railway of the Kingdom of Bavaria, which operated between 1844 and 1918 after which Bavarian State Railways ran until the 1920 merger with the Deutsche Reichsbahn.

**Königlich Preußische Eisenbahn-Verwaltung (K.P.E.V.)** *die* < -, -> noun – Royal Prussian Railway Administration; initials and coat of arms used on various Prussian Railway model trains since approximately 1970, but in reality no such organization existed. The correct title for the railways in Prussia was initially the Royal Prussian State Railways (Königlich Preußische Staatseisenbahnen) then starting in 1896 Prussian-Hessian State Railways (Preußisch-Hessische Staatseisenbahnen) and following World War I Prussian State Railways (Preußische Staatsbahn), which lasted until the 1920 merger with the Deutsche Reichsbahn.

**Königlich Sächsische Staatseisenbahnen (K.Sächs.Sts.E.B.)** *die* < -, -> noun – Royal Saxon State Railways. The state owned railways which operated in the Kingdom of Saxony from 1869 to 1918, which was then followed by the Saxon State Railways until it was absorbed into Deutsche Reichsbahn in 1920.

**Königlich Württembergische Staats-Eisenbahnen (K.W.St.E.)** *die* < -, -> noun – Royal Württemberg State Railways. The state railways of the Kingdom of Württemberg, which operated between 1843 and 1918 at which point it became the Württemberg State Railways until it was absorbed into Deutsche Reichsbahn in 1920.

**Kabelendhülse** *die* < -, n> noun – a plug with insulated sleeves that attaches to flexible wire.

**Kabelhalter** *der* < s, -> noun – cable holder, wire holder.

**Kabelrollenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – cable reel cars, which are specially designed flat cars designed to haul large reels of cable.

**Kaiserölbeleuchtung** *die* < -, en> noun – literal meaning is “Imperial Oil Illumination”, prior to World War I, “Kaiseröl” was a popular brand of kerosene used in miniature lamps in toy train stations, lights, signal lanterns, etc.

**Kastenkipper** *der* < s, -> noun – dump cars, used mainly to transport bulk goods such as stone. Dump cars are able to tilt to one side to offload their shipment of goods.

**Käfigwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – caged car used mainly to transport large mammals. Often included in circus themed train sets.

**Kaufhausbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – department store train set, often used in a negative connotation to describe inexpensive train sets sold in department stores.

**Kehrichtwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – refuse car, trash car. A specialized freight car designed to carry away rubbish and debris from construction sites.

**Kehrschleife** *die* < -, n> noun – reverse loop, a track configuration used by model railroaders to reverse the direction of a model train.

**Kehrschleifengarnitur** *die* < -, en> noun – reverse loop set, includes insulating track pieces and circuitry necessary for reverse loops in two-rail layouts, which prevents short-circuiting.

**Kesselwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – tank car, also refers to a tank wagon or tanker in Great Britain.

**Kieswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – gravel car, a car designed to carry gravel.

**Kipplore** *die* < -, n> noun – tippie car or side dump car. A car whose load bin can be tilted to both sides for offloading goods.

**Klappdeckelwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – covered gondola car.

**klassisch** < klassischer, am klassischsten> adjective – (1) classic, classical, (2) vintage or (3) ancient. Used to describe buildings, locomotives, rolling stock, etc.

**Klauenkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – claw coupling, jawcoupling, dog coupling.

**Klemmenleiste** *die* < -, -> noun – terminal block, a device used to connect wires from two or more circuits.

**klein** < kleiner, am kleinsten> adjective – (1) small, little or (2) short in measurement when compared to the average size. Used to describe the size of toy and model trains.

**Kohlenkran** *der* < s, -> noun – coal crane, used in coaling stations to load coal into locomotive tenders.

**kombinieren** < kombinierte, kombiniert> verb – to combine, example: to combine a passenger and baggage car.

**Kontaktgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – contact track, a special piece of track where an electrical contact is triggered by a passing train.

**Kontaktleiste** *die* < -, n> noun – contact treadle.

**Kraft** *die* < -, Kräfte> noun – force, power, energy, often used to describe the amount of locomotive pulling power.

**Kraftlokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – force locomotive, a specially designed live steam locomotive mostly produced in 0 gauge, where gear reductions are placed in the locomotive cab in order to increase the power of the small steam engine. This design made the use of inexpensive single-acting oscillating cylinder steam engines viable.

**Kraftübertragung** *die* < -, en> noun – drive train, transmission of mechanical power through gear wheels or pulleys. Gear reduction reduces speed while increasing torque and thus is used for electric motors or small steam engines (see Kraftlokomotive). Increasing the number of gears in clockwork locomotives helps to transmit power in from the main spring to the wheels, which often includes reversing gears.

**Krankenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – hospital car; also known as an ambulance coach or medical car.

**Kranwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – crane car, often used for track maintenance or to recover derailed locomotives and rolling stock.

**Kreis** *der* < es, e> noun – circle, can refer to a circular track layout.

**Kreisdurchmesser** *der* < s, -> noun – the diameter of a circle.

**Kreuzung** *die* < -, en> noun – crossing of tracks or rail lines.

**Kreuzweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – crossover turnout.

**Krümmungsradius** *der* < es, Krümmungsradii> noun – radius of a curvature, the radius of a curve.

**Kühlwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – refrigerated car, also known in the United States colloquially as a reefer or reefer car.

**Kulissensteuerung** *die* < -, en> noun – link motion, the part of the Stephenson or Walschaerts valve gear that enables the engineer to operate the steam engine in a continuous range of settings from maximum economy to maximum power, and to reverse the steam engines direction.

**Kunststoff** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – plastic, a synthetic material used to make different components that are commonly used in the construction of Postwar and Modern Era model buildings, locomotives and rolling stock.

**Kuppelstange** *die* < -, n> noun – connecting rod, used to connect sets of driving wheels.

**Kupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – coupling on rolling stock; also can refer to the clutch, which is used to interrupt mechanical power between the motor and the driving wheels.

**Kupplungsschacht** *der* < [e]s, Kupplungschächte> noun – coupling shaft.

**Kurbelstange** *die* < -, n> noun – piston rod, a link that turns the oscillating motion of the piston into the rotating motion of the wheel.

**Kurve** *die* < -, n> noun – curve, used to change the direction of track.

**Kurvenweiche** *die* < -, n> noun – curved switch or turnout where both track sections are curved but with different radii.

**Kurzkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – close coupling, a mechanical system, which automatically adjust the distance of coupled rail cars with buffers. Close coupling is used in Great Britain and Europe. On straight track the buffers are kept at a close distance, on curved track the distance between the cars is increased in order to prevent the buffers from locking.

## L

**Ladebrücke** *die* < -, n> noun – loading bridge.

**Laderampe** *die* < -, n> noun – loading ramp.

**Lagerschuppen** *der* < s, -> noun – storage shed.

**Lampenvorschaltwiderstand** *der* < es, Lampenvorschaltwiderstände> noun – lamp resistor, an electrical device used to reduce the voltage from the main power source (wall socket) to the track of an electric toy train. The track is connected to the wall socket through one light bulb or a series of several light bulbs.

**Länderbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) state railways, (2) state railway federations, (3) royal state railways found throughout empires or (4) any railroad owned, funded and operated by a national government.

**Landschaft** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) landscape, (2) scenery, (3) countryside; used to describe the visible features and landforms of layouts.

**lang** < länger, am längsten> adjective – long, often used to describe the length of a train or the length of a specific railcar.

**Länge über Puffer (LüP)** *die* < -, -> noun – length over buffer, length of a railroad car measured buffer to buffer.

**Langsamfahrstrecke** *die* < -, n> noun – slow-speed track section, a section of track with a low speed limit.

**Laufachse** *die* < -, n> noun – non-powered axle on a locomotive.

**Lauffläche** *die* < -, n> noun – the rim of a railroad car or locomotive wheel, the part of the wheel that is in contact with the rails.

**Lauftrad** *das* < es, Laufräder> noun – non-powered wheel on a locomotive.

**Läutewerk** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – bell signal system, bell apparatus.

**Leerfahrt (Le)** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) empty run, a trip operated without any passengers or cargo. (2) A sign on public transportation which indicates an out of service vehicle.

**Lokeinsatzstelle (LE)** *die* < -, n> noun – depot or station where a locomotive is housed and maintained.

**Leig-Einheit** *die* < -, en> noun – from the word “Leichtgüterzug” (light freight train). Leig-units were lightweight, high-capacity freight cars used between the 1920s and 1960s for express freight traffic. Leig-units were created by permanently connecting or joining two four-wheel boxcars. These combined four-wheel boxcars were labeled with the letters “LEIG”.

**Leitpaste** *die* < -, n> noun – conductive paste used as a lubricant and can be applied to rail joiners and catenary wires.

**Licht** *das* < [e]s, er> noun – light, either from natural sources (sun, fire, etc.) or from artificial sources like lamps. Lighting is frequently used to highlight features on layouts and for signals (see Lichtsignal).

**Lichttraumprofil** *das* < -, e> noun – clearance profile or loading gauge. It defines the maximum height and width for railway vehicles and their loads to ensure that they can pass safely through tunnels and under bridges, and keep clear of trackside buildings and structures.

**Lichtsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – light signal.

**links** < linker, am linken> adjective – left, often used to describe the direction of switches. Example: left-hand switch (Handweiche links).

**Litfaßsäule** *die* < -, n> noun – advertising pillar or advertising column, named after Ernst Amandus Theodor Litfaß (1816-1874) who in 1854 came up with the idea of installing advertising columns in Berlin. Found in and around train stations; sold as an accessory for model railroad layouts.

**Logistik-Zentrum** *das* < s, Logistik-Zentren> noun – logistics center for trans-shipment of goods. For example from trucks to trains, occasionally found on layouts and sold as a kit or a set.

**Lokalbahnzug** *der* < [e]s, Lokalbahnzüge> noun – local train, branch line train; used to connect small towns and villages to the main lines.

**Lokführer** *der* < s, -> noun – locomotive driver, engineer.

**Lokomotive (Lok)** *die* < -, n> noun – locomotive, a general term used to describe powered rail vehicles that pull trains.

**Lokschuppen** *der* < s, -> noun – locomotive shed.

**löten** < lötete, gelötet> verb – to solder. Model railroaders commonly solder when joining sections of track, adding feeder wires to track, and when joining wires together.

## Mm

**Mannschaft** *die* < -, en> noun – the crew of a train or a locomotive.

**Maschinenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – equipment car, carries machines and other supplies for railroad maintenance.

**Maßstab** *der* < -, Maßstäbe> noun – scale, a measure of scale relative to the size or extent of an object. Often associated with maps, architectural drawings, and models.

**Mastausleger** *der* < s, -> noun – mast arm, mast boom, mast outrigger, which cantilevers out over the track.

**Metall** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – metal, a material that can conduct heat or electricity and can be malleable or ductile. Used to construct parts of toy and model trains, accessories, etc.

**Metalldruckguss** *der* < es, Metalldruckgüsse> noun – die cast, metal casted into a mold under intense pressure and heat.

**Metall-Schienenverbinder** *der* < s, -> noun – metal rail joiner.

**Miniaturbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – miniature train, a narrow-gauge railway of 15 inches or smaller that can carry real passengers, with locomotives that are often scale models. Not to be confused with toy or model trains that are too small to real carry passengers.

**Ministerium für Verkehrswesen (MfV)** *das* < s, -> noun – Ministry of Transport in the German Democratic Republic (DDR), also known as East Germany in English.

**Mittelpufferkupplung** *die* < -, en> noun – middle buffer coupling or center buffer coupling, coupling that transmits pull and push forces. Used to eliminate buffers where they are impractical, such as on narrow gauge, mountain, tram, or high-speed lines.

**Mittelleiter** *der* < s, -> noun – central conductor, the live center rail in three rail track.

**Mittelschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – the center rail in three rail track.

**Mittelwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – an unpowered passenger car or coach designed to run between powered cars (Triebwagen), which are located at either the front or back of the train. Used in EMUs and high speed trains.

**Modellbahnanlage** *die* < -, n> noun – model railroad layout.

**Modellbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – model railroad.

**Modellbahnwesen** *das* < s, -> noun – model railroading, used when referring to model railroad organizations.

**Modelleisenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) model train, (2) model train set.

**Modelleisenbahner** *der* < s, -> noun – model railroader, a person who builds, maintains or operates a model railroad.

**Modelleisenbahnerverein** *der* < s, e> noun – model railroad organization or club.

**Modellgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – model track, which features dimensions that closely resemble real track.

**Modelliergewebe** *das* < s, -> noun – (1) modelling fiber or (2) modelling fabric, used to create terrain and other scenery on layouts.

**modern** < moderner, am modernsten> adjective – (1) modern, (2) contemporary, (3) advanced, (4) fashionable, (5) recent or (6) trendy. Often used in model railroading or toy trains to describe the era of time from 1970 to the present day, the Modern Era (die Moderne Epoche).

**MOROP** < -, -> noun – an association initially known as the “Organization of the Model Railway Friends Europe”, later renamed “Organization of Model Railroaders and Railway Friends Europe” is a European organization that regulates and oversees national associations of railroad and model railroad enthusiasts. This group created standards of scales and measurements for European models known as NEM.

**Motor** *der* < s, en> noun – motor or engine that generates power.

**Motorkohle** *die* < -, n> noun – a carbon based brush rod located in electric motors; used to transfer current from static wires to the commutator.

**Muldenkippwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – tipping car, dumping car; uses a hydraulic lifting system to raise the car to one side in order to offload various materials.

**Museumlok** *die* < -, s> noun – museum locomotive; used to describe a locomotive displayed or stored in a museum or historical society. Many museum locomotives are no longer in working condition.

## Nn

**Nachkriegs** < -, -> adjective – Postwar 1945-1969, in North America model railroading and toy train collecting this generally refers to the time period following the end of World War II until the purchase of the Lionel product line by General Mills.

**Nachläufer** *der* < s, -> noun – literal meaning is after-runner, a non-powered axle(s) located behind the driving axles of a locomotive; a 4-6-2 Pacific has one Nachläufer (see Vorläufer).

**Nahverkehrszug** *der* < [e]s, Nahverkehrszüge> noun – commuter train, local train, frequently stopping train. A train that travels from the city center out to suburbs and nearby towns.

**Nebenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – secondary railway, branch line railway; usually features slow moving trains. Occasionally trains with combined passenger and freight service operate on secondary lines.

**Nebensignale-Sortiment** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – an assortment of track signs; often sold by hobby shops or model railroading companies.

**Nebenstrecke** *die* < -, n> noun – branch line, a secondary rail line leading off the main line, which services businesses and smaller towns.

**Neigungswinkel** *der* < s, -> noun – incline angle, the angle in which track raises over a certain distance.

**Netzanschluß** *der* < es, Netzanschlüsse> noun – connection to the main power supply, power supply line.

**Netzteil** *das* < -, e> noun – power pack, which is a complete unit used to power model trains. Power packs generally consist of a transformer, a rectifier, and a rheostat, may contain switches and other accessories.

**Normen Europäischer Modellbahnen (NEM)** < -, -> noun – Norms of European Model Railroads is a set of standards for scales and measurements of models defined and maintained by MOROP.

**Normalspur** *die* < -, en> noun – standard gauge, denoting the track gauge of 4 ft 8 ½ inches.

**neu** < neuer, am neuesten> adjective – (1) new, (2) recent, (3) novel, (4) fresh; often used to describe new product releases or product announcements by model railroading companies.

**Neuheit** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) novelty, (2) novelty item or (3) innovation, commonly refers to new items. Example: TCA new items from 2007 (TCA Neuheiten 2007).

**Niederbordwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – low-sided gondola car.

## Oo

**Oberbau** *der* < s, Oberbauten> noun – (1) track superstructure, which refers to the rails, ties, and track bed (ballast). (2) Also refers to a permanent way in Great Britain.

**Oberleitung** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) catenary, (2) catenary systems, (3) overhead wire, (4) tram or trolley wire, overhead electrical line used to power trams, trolleys and trains.

**Oberleitungsmast** *der* < [e]s, en> noun – catenary mast, catenary post or pole.

**offener Güterwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) gondola or open wagon; (2) can be used to refer to a mineral wagon in Great Britain.

## Pp

**Packwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – baggage car, luggage car that hauls passenger's belongings. Typically has zero or only a few windows and large sliding doors on either one side or both sides of the car.

**Panoramawagen** *der* < s, -> noun – panorama car, a car with large windows or a dome of windows, which provides passengers a sweeping view of their surroundings.

**Pendelautomatik** *die* < -, en> noun – automatic tilting mechanism, used in high-speed trains to provide a stable and comfortable ride for passengers as the train traverses curves.

**Pendelzug** *der* < [e]s, Pendelzüge> noun – commuter train, from the German word pendeln, which means to commute. Commuter trains travel from city centers out to suburbs and nearby towns and cities.

**Permanentmagnet** *der* < s, e> noun – permanent magnet, used in small electric motors instead of field magnets.

**Personal** *das* < s, e> noun – personnel, crew.

**Personenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – passenger car, passenger coach in Great Britain, carries people on trains from one destination to the next.

**Personenzug** *der* < [e]s, Personenzüge> noun – passenger train, often stops frequently and is relatively slow compared to through trains, express or high-speed trains.

**Personenzug mit Güterbeförderung (PmG)** *der* < s, -> noun – a passenger train with freight transport. Created by adding a few freight cars to a passenger train; mainly used on branch lines (see Güterzug mit Personenbeförderung).

**Pfeife** *die* < -, n> noun – train whistle, used by the conductor to signal or warn others that a train is approaching. Also used to communicate with other railroad workers.

**Pfeifsirene** *die* < -, n> noun – a mechanical siren or coaster siren, which uses a rotating disk or a cylinder with holes.

**Pinsel** *der* < s, -> noun – paint brush, a tool used to apply paint often to trains, accessories, kits, backdrops, and landscapes on model train layouts.

**Plastik** *die* < -, en> noun – plastic, a synthetic material used mostly in the construction of Modern Era model trains and accessories.

**Platine** *die* < -, n> noun – the sideplate of a toy or model locomotive. A mechanism used to hold the driving wheels, gear wheels, and motor in place.

**Plattenbau** *der* < s, ten> noun – building erected from prefabricated wall and ceiling segments, prefabricated building. A construction method most often used to build mid-rise and high-rise apartment buildings, occasionally found on layouts and sold as kits or in a set.

**Postwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – mail car, post office car; refers to a traveling post office (TPO) car in Great Britain.

**Prellbock** *der* < [e]s, Prellböcke> noun – a rail bumper located on the end of the track, which prevents rail vehicles from running off the track.

**Pritschenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – pickup truck, flatbed truck, which can be modified to operate on rails.

**Prototyp** *der* < -, en> noun – prototype, the life sized trains from which models and toys are designed after. Also refers to pre-production samples of model trains.

**Puffer** *der* < s, -> noun – buffer, part of the buffer and chain coupling system used in British and European railways, where buffers absorb the push forces between railcars, usually with springs to take up the slack and equalize differences in distance when going around curves (see Federpuffer). Due to small radii, buffers are only ornamental and not functional in model railways.

## Rr

**Rad** *das* < [e]s, Räder> noun – wheel, a train wheel is a specially designed rolling component for use on tracks and is either pushed onto an axle or directly mounted on a locomotive or railway car or indirectly on a bogie or a truck.

**Radlenker** *der* < s, -> noun – the guide rail in switches.

**Radsatz** *der* < es, Radsätze> noun – set of wheels, wheel set, often sold as spare or replacement parts by hobby shops, dealers, manufacturers, etc.

**Rangierdiesellok** *die* < -, s> noun – diesel switcher or diesel switch engine also colloquially known as a yard goat in the United States. Known as a diesel shunter in Great Britain and Australia.

**Rangiergang** *der* < [e]s, Rangiergänge> noun – slow-motion control used in model locomotives to enable slower speeds suitable for switching.

**Rangierlok** *die* < -, s> noun – a switcher, a switch engine also colloquially known as a yard goat in the United States. Known as a shunter or yard pilot in Great Britain and Australia.

**Rathaus** *das* < es, Rathäuser> noun – (1) city hall, (2) town hall, (3) municipal building. Found on layouts, sold as either a kit or a set.

**Rauch** *der* < s, -> noun – smoke from the combustion of coal, wood or liquid fuels.

**Rauchkammer** *die* < -, n> noun – smokebox, the chamber located in front of the steam locomotive boiler into which the hot gases from the fire tubes are drawn by steam exhausted from the cylinders before being released out the smokestack.

**Rauchkammertür** *die* < -, en> noun – the door located in front of the smokebox used to empty ash and char drawn from the fire through the fire tubes.

**Reichsbahn Ausbesserungswerk (RAW)** *das* < s, e> noun – the repair and maintenance facility of the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR).

**Reichsbahnamt (Rba)** *das* < s, Reichsbahnämter> noun – administrative offices of the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR).

**Reichsbahn Direktion (RBD)** *die* < -, en> noun – head office of the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR).

**rechts** < rechter, am rechtsten> adjective – right, often used to describe the direction of switches. Example: right-hand switch (Handweiche rechts).

**Regulator** *der* < s, en> noun – the throttle of a steam locomotive, which is adjusted by the pilot valve. The pilot valve is operated by the engineer to control the flow of steam from the boiler to the engine.

**Regelwiderstand** *der* < -, Regelwiderstände> noun – rheostat, a device used to regulate resistance within an electric circuit.

**Reihe** *die* < -, n> noun – series or set of railcars. Used in “Wagenreihe” denoting the arrangement of passenger cars.

**Reisende** *die* < n, n> noun – traveler or passengers, a themed figure commonly found on layouts and sold in various scales.

**Reisezugwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – passenger cars designed to transport people comfortably on mid to long-distance trains, not used on commuter lines or trains that make frequent stops.

**Reinigungsflüssigkeit** *die* < -, en> noun – cleaning fluid or liquid, used to maintain and clean layouts, track, rolling stock, etc.

**Reiterstellwerk** *das* < s, e> noun – signal tower that spans the tracks. A special form of signal tower where the control rooms sits above the tracks allowing for a free view up and down the line (see Brückenstellwerk).

**Richtungsanzeiger** *der* < s, -> noun – a signal indicating the path set for the train, which is done by the switches at a station or junction.

**Ringlokschuppen** *der* < s, -> noun – roundhouse or locomotive shed with a circular arrangement of stalls. Usually designed with a turntable centrally located out in front of the building.

**Ritzel** *das* < s, -> noun – pinion, small gear wheel.

**Rollwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a truck used to transport standard gauge freight cars on narrow gauge track, with each axle of the standard gauge car resting on a 4-wheel narrow gauge truck. This eliminates the need for transferring freight from standard to narrow gauge cars.

**Rungenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – stake car, a car whose sides are designed with vertical stakes or stanchions; often carries lumber or barrels of liquid.

## Ss

**Salonwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a lounge car, salon car or parlor car.

**Sammler** *der* < s, -> noun – collector, a person who accumulates objects.

**Sammlerbörse** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) collectors meeting or get-together, (2) meet (3) or event, can be used to refer to train meets, an event where collectible trains are bought and sold.

**Sammlerverein** *der* < s, e> noun – train collectors organization, example TCA.

**Sandkasten** *der* < s, Sandkästen> noun – sandbox, a container located on locomotives used to blow sand below the wheels for increased adhesion on track.

**Säuretopfwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a specialized freight car designed to transport corrosive acidic or caustic liquids in large stoneware urns.

**Schaffner** *der* < s, -> noun – conductor, ticket collector or ticket inspector on passenger trains.

**Schaltgleis** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – switching rail, a special piece of track where an electric signal is triggered by a passing train.

**Schaltmagnet** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – switching magnet, which is found on the undercarriage of locomotives for automatic switching functions, also used to power track switches, signals etc.

**Scheibenrad** *das* < [e]s, Scheibenräder> noun – disc wheel (see Speichenrad).

**Scherenstromabnehmer** *der* < s, -> noun –pantograph, used to pick up electrical current from overhead wires. Normally connected to the roof of locomotives, trolleys and trams.

**Schiebetür** *die* < -, en> noun – sliding door, found on boxcars, in freight sheds, etc.

**Schiebewandwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a type of box car that has two sliding wall doors on both the left and right hand sides, sliding wall car.

**Schiene** *die* < -, n> noun – rail, a bar made out of steel or a continuous line of bars typically fixed to the ground as one of a pair forming tracks used by rail vehicles, in German often used erroneously for Gleis, which means track.

**Schienenbus** *der* < es, se> noun – railbus, a self-powered lightweight passenger car that has similarities to a bus. Typically designed with four wheels on a fixed base instead of trucks or bogies.

**Schienenfuß** *der* < es, Schienenfüße> noun – rail foot, the flat base of a rail that sits on the ties.

**Schienenkopf** *der* < es, Schienenköpfe> noun – rail head, the top of a rail, which is in contact with and worn down by the train wheels.

**Schienenprofil** *das* < s, e> noun – cross-section or profile of a section of rail (Schienenfuß is located at the bottom and Schienenkopf is located at the top of the cross-section of rail).

**Schienenreinigungsgerät** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – track-cleaning attachment.

**Schienenreinigungslokomotive** *die* < -, s> noun – track cleaning locomotive.

**Schienenstoß** *der* < [e]s, Schienenstöße> noun – rail joint, allows the rails to expand or to contract with fluctuations in temperature, responsible for the clickety-clack sound trains produce.

**Schienenverbinder** *der* < -, -> noun – rail joiner, a metal or plastic piece used to connect and hold model rail together and to keep it in alignment.

**Schleifreiniger** *der* < -, -> noun – a sanding block used to clean the tracks on model railroad layouts.

**Schleppender** *der* < -, -> noun – tender, a rail vehicle coupled to a steam locomotive. The tender is used to carry supplies of fuel in the form of wood, coal, oil, and water for the steam locomotive.

**Schleppenderlokomotive** *die* < -, s> noun – locomotive with a separate, coupled tender, which differs from a Tenderlokomotive, which carries water and fuel on-board the engine.

**Schleudergleitschutz** *der* < -, e> noun – wheel slip or wheel slide protection, a system designed to automatically reduce braking during events when the wheels lock-up on modern passenger cars and traction units. Assist drivers when wheel adhesion to the tracks is poor. In model railroading wheel slide protection systems are purely decorative and not functional.

**Schmalspur** *die* < -, en> noun – narrow gauge, denotes a gauge smaller than 4 ft 8 ½ inches, which is standard gauge.

**Schneepflug** *der* < [e]s, Schneepflüge> noun – snowplow, used to clear snow and ice from the tracks.

**Schneeschleuder** *die* < -, n> noun – rotary snow blower or rotary snowplow.

**schnell** < schneller, am schnellsten> adjective – (1) fast, (2) quick or quickly, (3) swift, (4) rapidly, (5) briskly, (6) speedy. Used to describe the speed of a train.

**Schnellverkehrsbahn (S-Bahn)** *die* < -, en> noun – urban-suburban fast commuter rail system serving a metropolitan region.

**Schnellzug** *der* < es, Schnellzüge> noun – fast train, express train.

**Schnellzuglokomotive (Schnellzuglokomotive)** *die* < -, n> noun – express locomotive.

**Schnellzugwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – express coach.

**Schornstein** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – smokestack, found on steam locomotives.

**Schornsteineinsatz** *der* < es, Schornsteineinsätze> noun – smoke generator, which is inserted into the smokestacks of model and toy steam locomotives.

**Schotter** *der* < s, -> noun – ballast, gravel or crushed stone used to embed railroad ties and hold them into place; also used to provide drainage.

**Schotterbett** *das* < s, en> noun – track bed made out of ballast; used to hold the ties in place.

**schottern** < schotterte, geschottert> verb – to ballast, the process where gravel and crushed stone is placed below the structure of the track.

**Schotterwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – hopper car also known as a ballast car, a hopper car carrying ballast.

**Schotterwerk** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – quarry, stone crushing works, occasionally found on layouts and sold as a kit or a set.

**Schotterzug** *der* < [e]s, Schotterzüge> noun – ballast train or a train only carrying ballast. Typically used to replenish gravel and crushed stone on sections of the roadbed.

**Schutzschalter** *der* < -, -> noun – circuit breaker, a device designed to protect an electrical circuit from damage in an event of excess current from an overload or short circuit.

**Schüttgutwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – bulk goods car, a freight car used to carry bulk goods.

**Schwachstrom** *der* < s, Schwachströme> noun – low or weak current, with the meaning of low voltage, usually refers to less than 20 volts.

**Schwebebahn** *die* < -, en> noun – suspension railway, elevated monorail in which the vehicle is suspended from a fixed track. One well-known example that inspired toy makers is the “floating tram” located in Wuppertal, Germany.

**Schwelle** *die* < -, n> noun < -, n> noun – railroad tie, crosstie, known as a railway sleeper in Great Britain, is laid perpendicular to the rails. Railroad ties transfer the weight of passing trains to the ballast, holds the rails upright and keeps them spaced to the correct gauge.

**Schwellenband** *das* < [e]s, Schwellenbänder> noun – tie strip, strip of model railroad ties; used for scratch-building track. Tie strips are often flexible to accommodate varied radii around curves, which eliminates the restrictions of sectioned pieces of track.

**Schwellenbett** *das* < [e]s, en> noun – tie strip, often flexible, designed for scratch-building track (see Schwellenband).

**Schwerlasttransport** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – heavy load transporter, a specially modified flat car designed to carry heavy freight.

**Schwungrad Motor** < -, -> noun – flywheel motor, found in model trains, is a motor designed to use the conservation of angular momentum in order to efficiently store rotational energy.

**Schwungradantrieb** *der* < s, e> noun – flywheel drive.

**Schwungradscheibe** *die* < -, n> noun – flywheel (see Schwungrad Motor).

**Seilbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – cable car, a car attached to cables that is carried through the air often up steep hillsides or mountains.

**Selbstentladenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – self-unloading hopper car, featuring dump doors underneath the car that open and discharge bulk materials into below grade storage or processing facilities.

**selbstgemacht** < -, -> adjective – homemade, also can refer to an object that has been built from scratch.

**Serie** *die* < -, n> noun – series refers to a design of locomotives, passenger or freight cars manufactured in large numbers.

**Service** *der* < -, -> noun – service, often associated with repairing toy trains by using spare or replacement parts.

**Set** *das* < s, s> noun – set, commonly refers to a locomotive sold with passenger cars, freight cars, track, and other accessories tied together with a common theme.

**Sicherheitsfahrshalter (Sifa)** *der* < s, -> noun – a safety device on locomotives that will automatically stop the train if the driver becomes incapacitated (dead man's switch).

**Signal** *das* < s, e> noun – signal, semaphore or light signal, also refers to a sign or symbol relaying a message or conveying information to railroad personnel.

**Signalbrücke** *die* < -, en> noun – signal bridge, known as a signal gantry in Great Britain, is a girder (often made of steel) extending over the tracks on which several signals are mounted.

**Sonderkupplungshaken** *der* < s, -> noun – a specially designed coupler hook, often used to connect incompatible couplings.

**Sonnenschutzdach** *das* < [e]s, Sonnenschutzdächer> noun – sunshade roof, refers to the protective overhang that extends over the brakeman's platform on both freight and passenger cars.

**Sortimentsbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – train sets, often sold in department stores (see Kaufhausbahn) and contain not only trains and pieces of track but also some set accessories like stations, signals, tunnels, etc. which are often rudimentary in design.

**Spannung** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) tension (mechanical), (2) voltage (electrical), also used in combinations such as Gleichspannung (DC voltage), Wechselspannung (AC voltage), Überspannung (excessive voltage), Unterspannung (insufficient voltage).

**Speichenrad** *das* < [e]s, Speichenräder> noun – spoked wheel (see Scheibenrad).

**Speisedom** *der* < s, e> noun – injector dome, a dome-shape extension of the steam boiler containing the injector.

**Speisewagen** *der* < s, -> noun – dining car, buffet car or restaurant car.

**Sperre** *die* < -, n> noun – the barrier between the station concourse and platforms, used to control access for ticketed and nonticketed passengers.

**Spezialöl** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – special maintenance oil.

**spielen** < spielte, gespielt> verb – to play, operating toy and model trains instead of collecting them, also used with sports, hobbies, musical instruments and other activities.

**Spielzeug** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – toy, an object designed to be played with for leisure, entertainment or amusement.

**Spielzeugeisenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – toy train.

**Spitzenlicht** *das* < s, er> noun – headlight, located at the front of the locomotive. Allows the driver of the locomotive to see better at night and in other low light situations (in tunnels). Also allows pedestrians and drivers to better see oncoming trains.

**Spritzenwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a pump car, most often used to pump water from a tank car and spray it onto a fire; used to fight trackside fires in remote places.

**Spur** *die* < -, en> noun – track gauge measured as the inner distance between the rails, not to be confused with scale (Baugröße, Nenngröße). Railways in Germany use 1435mm standard gauge (Normalspur). Other common narrow gauges (Schmalspur) used include 1000mm, 900mm, 750mm and 600mm. 16.5mm gauge track is used as standard gauge for 1:87 H0 scale in Germany and 1:76 00 (Double-O) scale in Great Britain. German 1:87 scale narrow gauge trains run on 12mm (H0m) or 9mm (H0e) track. Other scales and standard track gauges made in Germany include II (1:22.5, 64mm), I or G (1:32, 45mm), 0 (1:43.5 or 1:45, 32mm), S (1:64, 22.5mm), TT (1:120, 12mm), N (1:160, 9mm) and Z (1:220, 6.5mm). The gauges S and TT were most popular in the former East Germany.

**Spurkranz** *der* < [e]s, Spurkränze> noun – wheel flange.

**Spurweite** *die* < -, n> noun – gauge, track width measured between the inside of the railheads, see Spur for examples.

**Stadt** *die* < -, Städte> noun – (1) city, (2) large town, (3) urban, (4) municipal, (5) borough. Used as a setting or for scenery on layouts.

**Stammholzwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – flatbed rail car designed to carry logs.

**Starkstrom** *der* < s, Starkströme> noun – high (strong) current, meaning high voltage of 110 volts or 220 volts.

**Steigung** *die* < -, en> noun – the inclination on a ramp.

**Stellwerk** *das* < s, e> noun – (1) signal box, (2) signal tower.

**Steuerstange** *die* < -, n> noun – control rod, part of the valve control in steam engines.

**Steuerwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – control car, which is a non-powered car that can control the operation of the train. Generally is located at the opposite end of the train from where the locomotive is positioned.

**Stirnwandwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – bulkhead flat car.

**Storchbeinlokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – stork leg locomotive, a distinctive toy train locomotive style manufactured in Germany during the Prewar Era, which featured a 2-2-0 wheel arrangement. Commonly powered by live steam or clockwork.

**Straße** *die* < -, n> noun – street or road found on layouts to create scenery and railroad crossings.

**Straßenbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) trolley, (2) streetcar, (3) tramway, (4) light rail.

**Straßenlaterne** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) street light or street lamp, (2) light post. Sold as an accessory for layouts.

**Streckenarbeiter** *der* < s, -> noun – track worker, formerly known as a navvy in Great Britain or a gandy dancer in the United States; sold as a figure and found on some layouts.

**Streufasern** *die* < -, -> noun – ground cover fibers, commonly found on layouts and made to mimic different types of grasses. Examples: green grass, tall grass, summer meadow, autumn meadow, etc.

**Strom** *der* < [e]s, -> noun – electrical current, which is measured in Ampere.

**Stromabnehmer** *der* < s, -> noun – electrical pickup, a device designed to pick up electrical power from a live rail or overhead wire.

**Stromlinie** *die* < -, n> noun – streamline, a design method that smooths the shapes of objects in order to improve their aerodynamics by reducing air resistance. First used by railroads in the United States during the late 1930s through the 1950s in their locomotive and passenger car designs. In Germany, the Schienenzeppelin was the first high-speed streamliner. It was introduced in 1930.

**Stromlinienform** *die* < -, en> noun – streamline shape (see Stromlinie).

**Stromlinienlokomotive** *die* < -, en> noun – streamlined locomotive. Examples include the Schienenzeppelin, the Union Pacific M-10000, Burlington Zephyr, the Pennsylvania Railroad's GG1, etc.

**Stromquelle** *die* < -, n> noun – source of electrical current, power source.

**Stromschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – live rail or third rail, acts as a conductor rail by providing electric power to a train or locomotive through a semi-continuous conductor located either alongside or in between the tracks. The third rail is always supplied by direct current.

**Stromversorgung** *die* < -, en> noun – power supply.

**Stromwender** *der* < -, -> noun – commutator, a rotating attachment to the motor, which is connected to the armature and converts electrical current to motion.

**Stückgutwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – (1) parcel car, used to transport small packages. Designed to include an office for the package handler. (2) A boxcar for light freight that can be handled (loaded/unloaded) manually such as parcels, packages and small wooden crates.

**Stumpfgleis** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – short spur track, usually built as a safety measure to prevent a train from entering the main line.

**Stütze** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) strut, (2) support column, (3) pillar, (4) buttress or (5) brace; often sold with bridge kits.

**Stützmauer** *die* < -, n> noun – supporting wall or retaining wall; can be found on layouts around tunnels, bridges, hillsides, mountainsides, etc.

**Supermarkt** *der* < [e]s, Supermärkte> noun – supermarket, can be found on layouts sold either as a kit or a set.

## Tt

**Tageslichtsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – (day) light signal, which is distinct from a semaphore signal because it does not utilize arms to convey information.

**Tankwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – tank car, also known as a tank wagon or tanker in Great Britain, equivalent to Kesselwagen.

**technisch** < technischer, am technischsten> adjective – technical, often used to describe problems, jobs, innovations, and improvements model railroaders encounter or make.

**Telegrafmast** *der* < [e]s, en> noun – (1) telegraph post, (2) telephone pole, sold as an accessory for layouts.

**Tender** *der* < -, -> noun – a container used to carry fuel and water for a steam locomotive; can be on a separate frame (Schlepptender) or the same frame (Tenderlokomotive) as the locomotive.

**Tenderlokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – tank engine or tank locomotive where fuel and water is carried in large containers on the same frame as the locomotive.

**Tiefladewagen** *der* < s, -> noun – depressed-center flatcar or wellcar. Also known as a lowmac in Great Britain, is designed to carry more than 100 short tons for high-clearance loads often associated with electrical equipment.

**Tierfigur** *die* < -, en> noun – animal figurines, manufactured to various scales, found on layouts often in farm or rural settings.

**Tiertransportwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – animal transport car.

**Tourist** *der* < en, en> noun – tourist, a themed figure commonly found on layouts.

**Trafo** *der* < -, s> noun – transformer, power transformer.

**Tragseil** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – (1) catenary support wire or (2) track cable for a cable car.

**Treibachse** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) the drive axle of a locomotive, (2) powered axle, (3) axle with driving wheels (see Laufachse).

**Treibrad** *das* < [e]s, Treibräder> noun – driving wheel or powered wheel of a locomotive.

**Treibstange** *die* < -, n> noun – drive rod, part of the mechanical linkage of a locomotive, which is used to transmit and distribute mechanical power between the axles.

**Trenngleis** *das* < es, e> noun – insulated track that cuts power on one, two, or three rails; can feature a multi-terminal contact strip for power connections.

**Trennstift** *der* < s, e> noun – isolating pin, used to create isolated track sections in electric train layouts.

**Triebfahrzeug (Tfz)** *das* < s, e> noun – locomotive (see Lokomotive).

**Triebfeder** *die* < -, n> noun – the main spring driving a mechanical clockwork-powered model locomotive (see Uhrwerk).

**Triebwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a railcar that is self-propelled and is able to transport either cargo or passengers.

**trittfest** < trittfester, am trittfestesten> adjective – step-resistant, a word used in toy train advertising to describe track that will not be damaged if stepped upon, which was once a common hazard of toy trains which ran on track set-up on the floor.

**Tunnel** *der* < s, -> noun – tunnel, once a popular toy train accessory, found on electric toy train layouts.

## U/Üu

**Übergangssteg** *der* < s, e> noun – footbridge used by pedestrians to safely cross railroad tracks.

**Überführung** *die* < -, en> noun – bridge designed for foot or vehicle traffic, which passes above or over railroad tracks (see Unterführung).

**Überspannung** *die* < -, en> noun – excess voltage.

**Uhrwerk** *das* < s, e> noun – clockwork, a spring-powered wind-up mechanism, widely used in toy train design before the introduction of electricity. Clockwork consists of a main spring with a wind-up ratchet, reduction and reversing gears, a speed-regulating governor, and start-stop control. Keys are used to wind-up the main spring (see Vierkantschlüssel).

**Uhrwerklokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – clockwork (mechanical, wind-up) locomotive, toy and model train locomotives powered by a mechanical spring driven mechanism.

**Umschalter** *der* < s, -> noun – reversing switch.

**Umschaltgeis** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – section of track, which when the train passes over, it triggers the reversal of the direction of travel.

**Umsteuerung** *die* < -, en> noun – the part of the steam engine valve gear, which allows the engineer to reverse the direction of travel.

**Unterbau** *der* < [e]s, ten> noun – (1) substructure or foundation, including embankments, of bridges and viaducts. (2) Also can refer to the benchwork for model railroad layouts.

**Unterbrechergleis** *das* < es, e> noun – insulated track that cuts power to a section of rail, commonly used for signals and stopping sections.

**Unterbrecherschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – insulated rail that has the ability to cut power to a section of rail, same function as Unterbrechergleis.

**Unterführung** *die* < -, e> noun – a tunnel designed for foot or vehicle traffic, which crosses below the railroad tracks (see Überführung).

**Unterspannung** *die* < -, en> noun – undervoltage, when applied voltage drops to 90% or lower of rated voltage for a minimum of one minute.

## Vv

**Verbindungsstift** *der* < s, e> noun – the connecting pins in tracks.

**Vereinslazarettzug** *der* < [e]s, Vereinslazarettzüge> noun – a hospital train consist, used to carry sick and injured soldiers from the frontlines back to base hospitals. Commonly used during both World War I and World War II, but first appeared during the middle part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Vergasungsbrenner** *der* < s, -> noun – gasification burner; used to heat boilers in toy and model steam engines. Gasification burners are more effective and less dangerous than wick burners (Dochtbrenner).

**Verladerampe** *die* < -, en> noun – loading ramp.

**verlaschen** <verlaschte, verlascht> verb – to connect metal parts using tabs and slots, commonly used in tinplate trains for coupling.

**Verspätungsanzeiger** *der* < s, -> noun – delay indicator, signage located in stations showing delays.

**Verwitterung** *die* < -, en> noun – degradation of stone and concrete structures due to exposure to the elements (rain, sun, ice, etc.) over the passage of time. Modelers use painting techniques on layouts to mimic the decay of structures and natural elements.

**Viehwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – cattle car also known as a stock car in North America.

**Vierkantschlüssel** *der* < s, -> noun – square key, a key used to wind up the main spring of clockwork mechanisms (see Uhrwerk).

**Vollbahnlokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – “full-railway locomotive”, mainline locomotive, does not apply to locomotives used on narrow-gauge, light rail, industrial, interurban or tramway lines.

**Vollprofilschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – solid profile rail.

**Volt** *das* < -, -> noun – volt, the SI unit of voltage, electromotive force.

**Voltmeter** *das* < -, -> noun – a device used to measure voltage.

**Vorbild** *das* < [e]s, er> noun – (1) prototype, (2) full-scale railway.

**Vorläufer** *der* < [e]s, -> noun – (1) literal meaning is fore-runner, (2) a non-powered axle(s) in front of the driving axles of a locomotive; a 4-6-2 Pacific style locomotive for example has two Vorläufer (see Nachläufer).

**Vorkriegs** < -, -> adjective – Prewar, in model railroading and toy train collecting this generally refers to the time period before the breakout of World War II (1939 in Europe, 1942 in the US). The war triggered a temporary stoppage in toy train production and imports, a term commonly used in North America and Great Britain.

**Vorschaltwiderstand** *der* < s, Vorschaltwiderstände> noun – series resistor or rheostat; used to reduce the voltage of mains electricity to that of the electric toy train. A series resistor or rheostat can be dangerous when not used properly (see Lampenvorschaltwiderstand).

**Vorserienlok** *die* < -, s> noun – (1) prototype locomotive or preliminary model locomotive, (2) a locomotive constructed as a pilot project prior to mass production, pre-production locomotive.

**Vorsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – distant signal; used to give advance warning of the position of the Hauptsignal (home or stop signal). The distant signal indicates to the engineer whether to progress at speed or to prepare to stop.

**Vorspannlokomotive** *die* < -, n> noun – (1) pilot locomotive or (2) helper locomotive; used to help trains climb steep gradients or grades.

## Ww

**Wackelzylinder** *der* < s, -> noun – a derogative term for an oscillating cylinder.

**Wagen** *der* < s, -> noun – wagon or it can be used as a generic term for a railway car.

**Wageneinteilung** *die* < -, n> noun – the arrangement of cars in passenger trains.

**Waggon** *der* < s, s> noun – wagon, railway car (see Wagen).

**Warnschild** *das* < s, er> noun – warning sign.

**Warnschilder-Sortiment** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – an assortment of warning signs or signals; often sold by hobby shops or model railroad retailers.

**Wärterhaus** *das* < s, Wärterhäuser> noun – keeper's house, a lineside or trackside building where railway employees worked and lived with their families, attended to block signals, junction turnouts, road crossings, etc.

**Wartehäuschen** *das* < -, -> noun – (1) bus shelter or (2) tram shelter; often sold as an accessory for layouts.

**Wasserturm** *der* < s, Wassertürme> noun – water tower; used to maintain water pressure and to store a supply of water for steam locomotives.

**Wechselstrom** *der* < [e]s, -> noun – alternating current, commonly referred to as AC, changes its direction with a frequency of 60Hz (US) or 50Hz (UK and Europe).

**Weiche** *die* < -, n> noun – turnout, track switch, referred to as points in Great Britain.

**Weichenantrieb** *der* < [e]s, e> noun – switch drive.

**Weichenlaterne** *die* < -, n> noun – switch lantern used to indicate the position of the switch.

**Weichensignal** *das* < s, e> noun – switch signal, used to indicate the position of the switch.

**Weichenstellhebel** *der* < s, -> noun – switch handle, which is used to manually operate a switch.

**Weichenstraße** *die* < -, n> noun – sequence of switches located at stations and freight yards; designed to connect a set of parallel sidings.

**Weichenzunge** *die* < -, n> noun – switch blade.

**Weihnachten** *das* < -, -> noun – Christmas (literal meaning is Holy Night), traditionally peak time for toy and model trains. Often featured as a theme on train sets during the holiday season, layouts commonly constructed at the base of Christmas trees during the holiday season

**Weinfaßwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a wine barrel car is a specialized freight car designed to carry wine. Usually sold as a novelty item and can be found either individually or in a set.

**Weißblech** *das* < -, e> noun – tinfoil, thin sheets of iron or steel coated with tin to prevent corrosion and used as a base for painting or tin printing (lithography). Tinfoil, being cheap and easily punched out and pressed into different shapes, was the dominant material for making track, locomotive shells, passenger and freight cars, buildings and all kinds of accessories during the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Tinfoil is mostly associated with toy trains of the Prewar period but reached high standards of realism, supported by highly detailed pressing and printing before World War 1 in Great Britain (for example Bassett-Lowke) and during the 1920s in other parts of Europe.

**Weißblech-Hohlschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – hollow-profile rails made of formed tinfoil; used for hi-rail track.

**Wellblechbude** *die* < -, n> noun – lineside or trackside hut or shelter constructed with sheets of corrugated iron or metal.

**Wendezug** *der* < [e]s, Wendezüge> noun – push-pull train, commonly used in commuter service trains. Push-pull trains are organized with the locomotive at one end, and a passenger car with a remote-control cab at the other end. This alignment eliminates the need for switching the locomotive when changing directions.

**Werkstattwagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a special car equipped with a workshop.

**Werkzeugsatz** *der* < [e]s, Werkzeugsätze> noun – tool kit, commonly used by modelers, kitbashers, kitbuilders and operators of model railroads. Also commonly used by people performing basic maintenance or completing a restoration project on a piece from their toy and model train collections.

**Windleitblech** *das* < s, e> noun – smoke deflector on a steam locomotive; designed to create an upwards draft, which lifts the smoke off the train.

## Yy

**Ypsilon** *das* < [s], s> noun – a wye, which is the triangular arrangement of track with three switches resembling the letter “Y”. A wye is used to turnaround locomotives and entire trains, or as a two-way connection of a branch line to the main line.

## Zz

**Zahnradbahn** *die* < -, en> noun – cog railroad, known as a train or rack railroad (railway) in Great Britain; used to provide traction on steep grades of mountain railways.

**Zahnstange** *die* < -, n> noun – rack rail, positioned in the center of the track, in which the driven cog wheel of the locomotive engages.

**Zahnstangenhalter** *der* < -, -> noun – (1) rack rail holder, (2) bracket or (3) retainer; a fixture used to connect the rack rail to the ties.

**Zementsilowagen** *der* < s, -> noun – a cement silo car.

**Zirkus** *der* < -, se> noun – circus, a theme or setting found on some layouts.

**Zirkuswagen** *der* < s, -> noun – circus car.

**Zubehör** *das* < [e]s, e> noun – accessories or equipment.

**Zufahrtgleis** *das* < es, e> noun – entrance or it can refer to a piece of track that allows trains to enter onto a main rail line from a spur or siding.

**Zug** *der* < [e]s, Züge> noun – train.

**Zugbegleiter** *der* < -, -> noun – train conductor.

**Zugbeleuchtung** *die* < -, en> noun – train illumination, for example lighting in the interior of passenger cars illuminates the space.

**Zugbildung** *die* < -, en> noun – the make up or composition of a train set, consist.

**Zugchef** *der* < s, s> noun – title for the train conductor or train manager used on Swiss railroads and long-distance German trains.

**Zugentgleisung** *die* < -, en> noun – train derailment, when a train unintentionally is forced off the tracks.

**Zugförderungsstelle** *die* < -, n> noun – Austrian term for Bahnbetriebswerk, the facility for housing and maintaining locomotives. Known as a locomotive shed in Great Britain.

**Zugführer** *der* < s, -> noun – train conductor, not to be confused with Lokführer (train engineer), commonly used in Austria.

**Zugpackung** *die* < -, en> noun – (1) train set, (2) train outfit or (3) a boxed set typically contains a locomotive, train cars, track and sometimes a transformer and accessories.

**Zugpersonal** *das* < s, -> noun – train personnel, train crew.

**Zugschlußlaterne** *die* < -, n> noun – tail lantern or light, usually a red light used to mark the end of the train. Also used as a safety measure to warn signalmen of lost train cars. If a train without a tail lantern passes, it can signal a car has been lost.

**Zugschlußsignal** *das* < s, e> noun – tail signal, which signals the end of a train. A red light is normally used as the tail signal.

**Zugzusammenstellung** *die* < -, en> noun – consist, the composition of a train.

**Zusatzschalter** *der* < s, -> noun – supplementary switch, which can be used for automatic train control, also controls signaling and lighting circuits.

**zweipoliger Wechselschalter (DPDT Schalter)** *der* < -, -> noun – DPDT switch, a double pole double throw switch, which is an electrical switch allowing current from two inputs to be concurrently switched back and forth from one set of wires to another set. Can be rewired to function as a reversing switch.

**Zwischenschiene** *die* < -, n> noun – closure rail, are the straight or curved rails positioned in between the heel of the switch and the toe of the frog.

**Zylinder** *der* < s, -> noun – cylinder, which converts steam pressure or combustion of diesel or gasoline fuel into mechanical motion.