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Back at work in London, while window shopping at Hadley Hobbies one lunchtime, I saw the Lima RBe4/4. This was soon on its way home, the bug was biting but there was still only my British layout on which to run them. The 1983 summer holiday saw us in Geneva (by Swiss Express) and a Lima Re6/6 (early version) was added to the collection. Further wagons were added during the same holiday. Even more significantly, while changing trains at Spiez I discovered Die Modell Eisenbahn.

A change of job in 1983 meant a move back to Kendal and a house with a cellar - Chris says that was the only reason for buying the house! My thoughts turned immediately to a Swiss layout and a plan was drawn up even before I left the old job, with much of the inspiration coming from the layout in that first copy of Die Modell Eisenbahn. My first inclination would have been to includes a section of the Brunig line but the absence of appropriate and reasonably priced models ruled this out. Having used the Lucerne-Bern line several times we had grown fond of the peaceful Emmental scenery, small towns, villages and of course, the stations.

The available space, 11ft x 7ft and my desire for a continuous run, led to the track plan illustrated. This is made up of a station area and a country area wrapped around a "U" shape, with the two legs joined by a tunnel. This gives viewing from the outside on three sides although in the cellar only one side is accessible.

Not having the space or information needed to model an actual location I have tried to create an image of a typical junctions station on a secondary main line, such as the Lucerne-Bern line.

STEAM NEWS

To celebrate 100 years of the Jura-Simplon-Bahn, a number of steam specials were run during August using A3/5 No.705. These were:

11 August Biel-Lausanne

(Piloted Neuchatel-Renens by C5/6 No.2878)

17 August Lausanne-Sion & return

18 August Lausanne-Bern

(Banked to Romont by Ae3/6111 No.10264)

RhB Steam

The steam snowplough is expected to perform on the Bernina as follows: Sunday 27 January; Saturday to Tuesday 23-26 February: Tuesday to Friday 26 February to 1 March 1991.

Steam trains will operate as below in the early part of 1991:

Tuesday 1 January St.Moritz-Scuol
Sunday 3 February St.Moritz-Scuol
Sunday 24 February Samedan-Scuol
Thursday 28 February Samedan-Scuol

Gordon Wiseman writes:

The bridge carrying the DB link from Koblenz to Waldshut has been used before for steam specials. I travelled over the bridge in a steam hauled passenger train during the centenary celebrations of the Turgi-Waldshut line on 19 August 1984. The locomotive was 5819, of class Ecb3/5 I think.