

Norfolk and Western Railway Grafton Division

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Style: Freelance

Era: early to mid-1950's transition era from Steam to Diesel locomotives

Scale: HO

% Completed: 30% trackwork

% Scenery: 0%

Control: Digitrax DCC

Features: LCC control of 8 track storage

Access: Outside entrance to basement around back of house. Restroom upstairs requires steps.



The N&W Railway Grafton Division is a fictional railroad that originated with the creation of the regional Grafton and Ohio Railroad. Since the Norfolk and Western (N&W) Railway was formed by more than 200 railroad mergers over the years, in my railroad modeling world, the Grafton and Ohio (G&O) Railroad, became one of those mergers.

The merger is new, so Grafton and Ohio Railroad rolling stock have not yet been repainted and you will see steam and first-generation diesel G&O rolling stock operating alongside N&W rolling stock. The Grafton and Ohio Railroad stretched from Lake Erie in Ohio to the deep Appalachian Mountains of VA, WV, TN, and extended to western NC. The G&O competed with the N&W in several markets, so it made sense when the G&O hit financial hard times to merge with the N&W.

The Grafton Division is designed for operations and moves a large amount of coal with two major coal mines and two coal powered electric generation plants. It also hauls a mixture of merchandise to several industries on a point-to-point concept with through freights, locals, and a few passenger trains.

Because of the deep rural area served by the G&O, there is still a line dedicated to connecting mountain communities by rail thru the use of a Doodlebug to haul people and things. There is talk of using an old Shay steam locomotive to a couple new industries further up in the mountains on that same line.