

The smallest practical scale is N gauge; you can pack a lot into a tiny space, but the small size does present problems in seeing what is being modelled! There are some foreign ready-to-run models plus a few white metal kits for British trams. The 'Typhoo Tea' copy of the old Lesney Models of Yesteryear diecast London tram is a good inexpensive start.

The most popular scales are OO or HO; most model railways are built to one of these scales, so some model railway manufacturers include trams in their ranges. Trams in this scale are often built from kits; a large variety is available, together with mechanisms to power them. Most specialist model tramway manufacturers operate through mail order – supplying tramway kits and all the bits and pieces to go with them is now a considerable cottage industry. The table gives the main sources, but there are many others. OO or HO also has the distinct advantage that a layout can be constructed in a small space (6" radius curves are possible even if a little tight!) and to a fairly short timescale. There is nothing like getting a layout operating quickly to encourage enthusiasm!

O gauge has a strong band of devotees. More detail can be incorporated than in OO/HO, but at double the space. There are no ready-to-run models, but kits and bits and pieces are available. O gauge is therefore the preserve of the model maker who likes to build trams from card, wood, plastic or metal. One other point to consider - the larger the scale, the less eye strain for the constructor!

Moving even larger, G scale has ready-to-run trams available from two manufacturers, together with a small supply of conversion kits and accessories; suitable scale for a layout in the garden or in a large space in the house.

¾" scale has traditionally been the choice for those interested in scratch-building large models. Superb detail can be achieved. At one time this scale was largely the preserve of the model engineer, but a range of wheels, trucks and castings has reduced the need for metal working skills and equipment.

Name	Scale	Size per real foot	Track gauge	Ready to run trams	Kits and accessories	Main suppliers
N	1:148	2mm	9mm	Very few; Bachmann plus some imports	Limited range from specialist suppliers	East Lancs Model Tramway Supplies – address below Modemo range from specialist model railway suppliers; see adverts in Continental Modeller
HO	1:87	3.5mm	16.5mm	Extensive range mainly continental and US prototypes	Extensive range including mechanisms for HO and OO	<i>2 main postal suppliers for HO/00:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Lancs Model Tramway Supplies, 14 Buttermere Road, Burnley, Lancs BB10 4HU (3 large first class stamps for catalogue) Also some N, O and G scale items <a href="http://www.eastlancsmodeltrams.net">www.eastlancsmodeltrams.net</a></li> <li>Rolf Hafke, Tram Shop, Sieben-Schwaben-Weg 22, 50997 Köln, Germany (for HO). <a href="http://www.modeltram.de">www.modeltram.de</a></li> </ul> <i>2 main kit suppliers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABS Models 36 Napier Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, BH15 4LX</li> <li>BEC-KITS, 47 Woodlands Road, Lancaster, LA1 2EH. (List 4 2<sup>nd</sup> cl stamps SAE) <a href="http://www.bec-kits.co.uk">www.bec-kits.co.uk</a></li> </ul> Also Elro (Robert Hendry) card kits – see <a href="http://www.tramwayinfo.com">www.tramwayinfo.com</a> Only shop to stock a range of trams and accessories is Hattons of Liverpool; for address and for other shops who may stock more limited range see adverts in the model railway press. Models are also available through TMS Crich shop.
OO	1:76	4mm	16.5mm	Unmotorised trams from Corgi and EFE Can be motorised using kits from various traders who advertise in the TLRS Tramfare magazine  Bachmann ready to run Hong Kong tram	As above	
O	1:43.5	7mm	32mm	Some imports – see adverts in TLRS Tramfare Magazine	Two main suppliers	Terry Russell, 23 Thornden, Cowfold, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 8AG <a href="http://www.terryrusselltrams.co.uk">www.terryrusselltrams.co.uk</a>  Alphagraphix, 23 Daris Road, Birmingham, B29 7QY (SAE for list). Card kits – also in OO/HO
G	1:22.5	13.5mm	45mm	One closed and one open 4 wheel tram and US bogie tram from Bachmann; LGB tram & trailer	One main supplier – Occre Kits <a href="http://www.occre.com">www.occre.com</a>	See adverts in Garden Rail Magazine for information
¾"	1:16	¾"	3.5"	None	Range of wheels, trucks and other metal items	TLRS Model Engineering Secretary, Peter Howard, 9, Manor Close, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 7PN (2 first class stamps for list)  Model Tramway System, 8 Upper Road, Meole Brace Shrewsbury SY3 9JD. 6 1 <sup>st</sup> cl stamps for catalogue