

**QUESTION  
PERIOD**

**TALKIN'**

**How to include a transition between T-TRAK,  
NTRAK and FreeMo N for inclusive club  
membership and small local shows.**

TM

Professor Choo Choo

T-TRAK 101



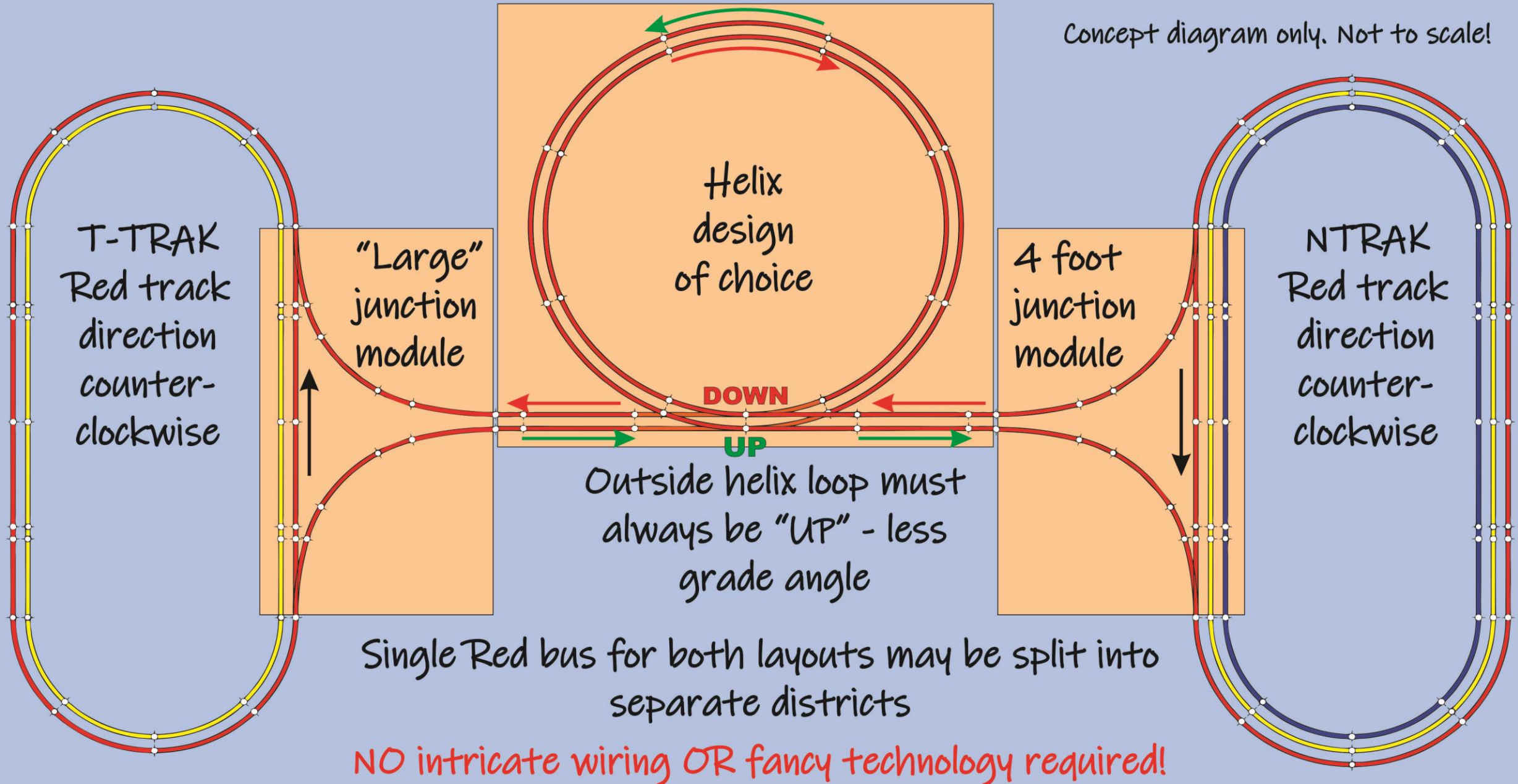
The best way to join  
the various modular  
formats is to go  
'round and 'round in  
circles!



I'm gettin' dizzy!

# T-TRAK to NTRAK HELIX

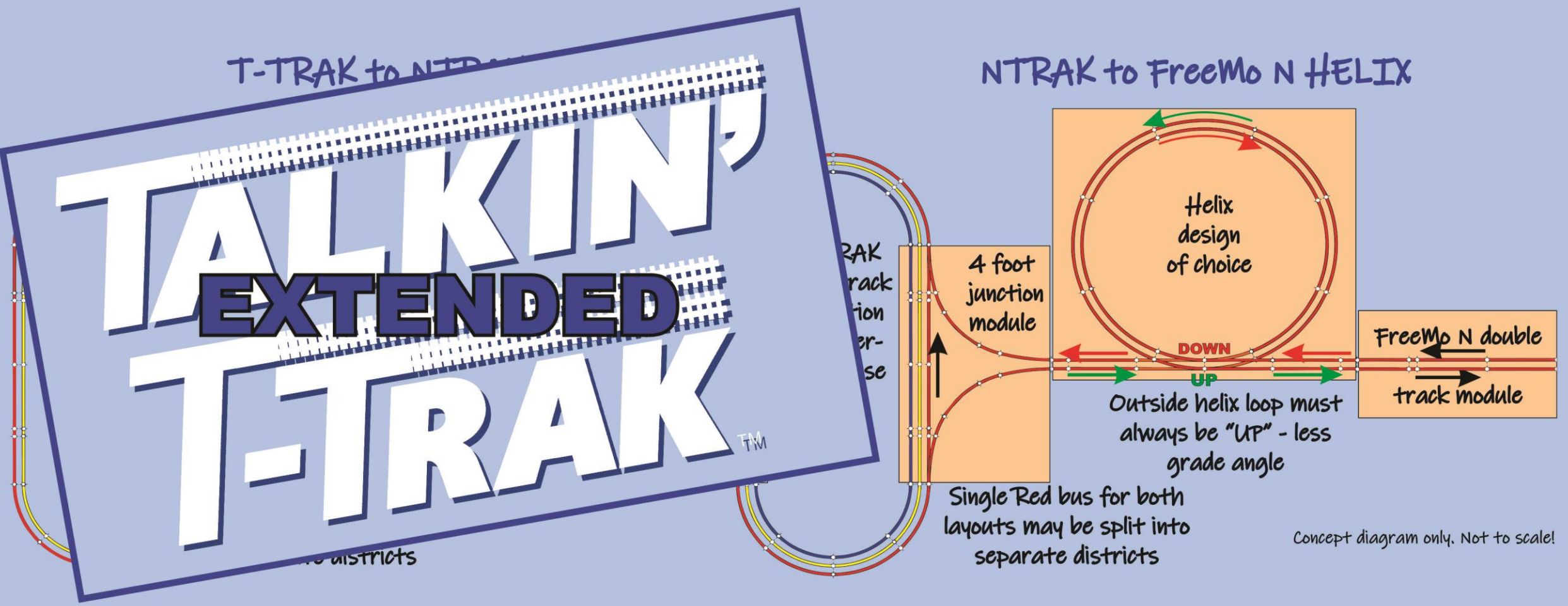
Concept diagram only. Not to scale!



T-TRAK to NTRAK

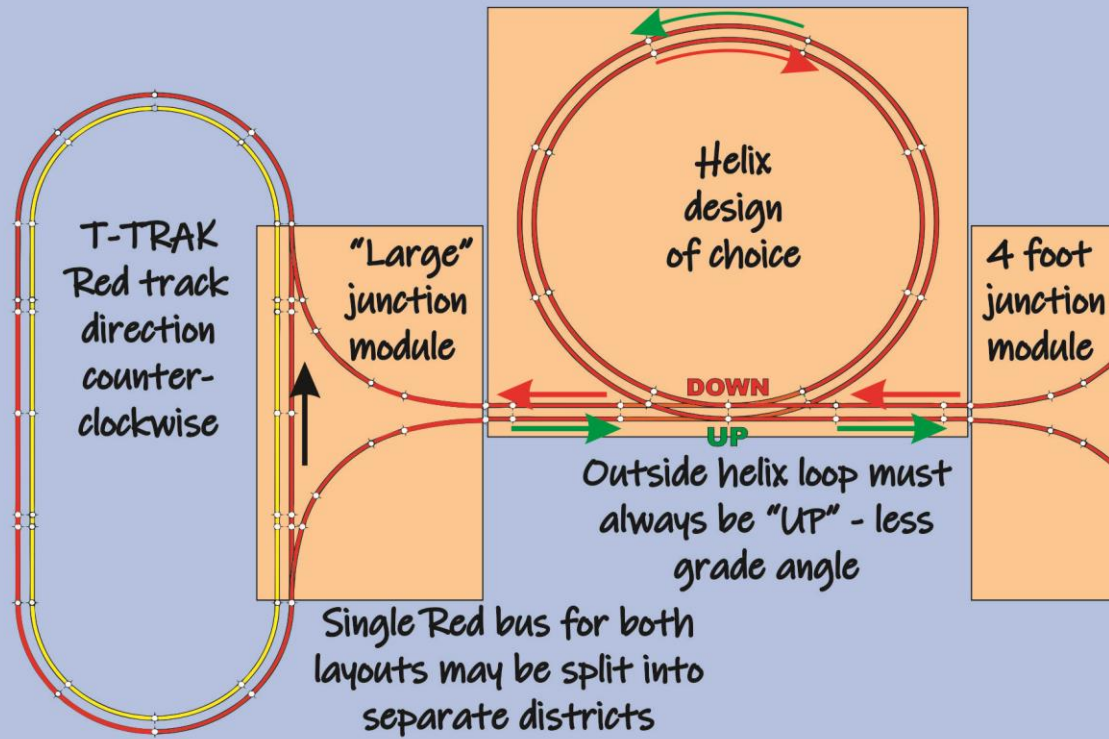
# TALKIN' T-TRAK EXTENDED

NTRAK to FreeMo N HELIX

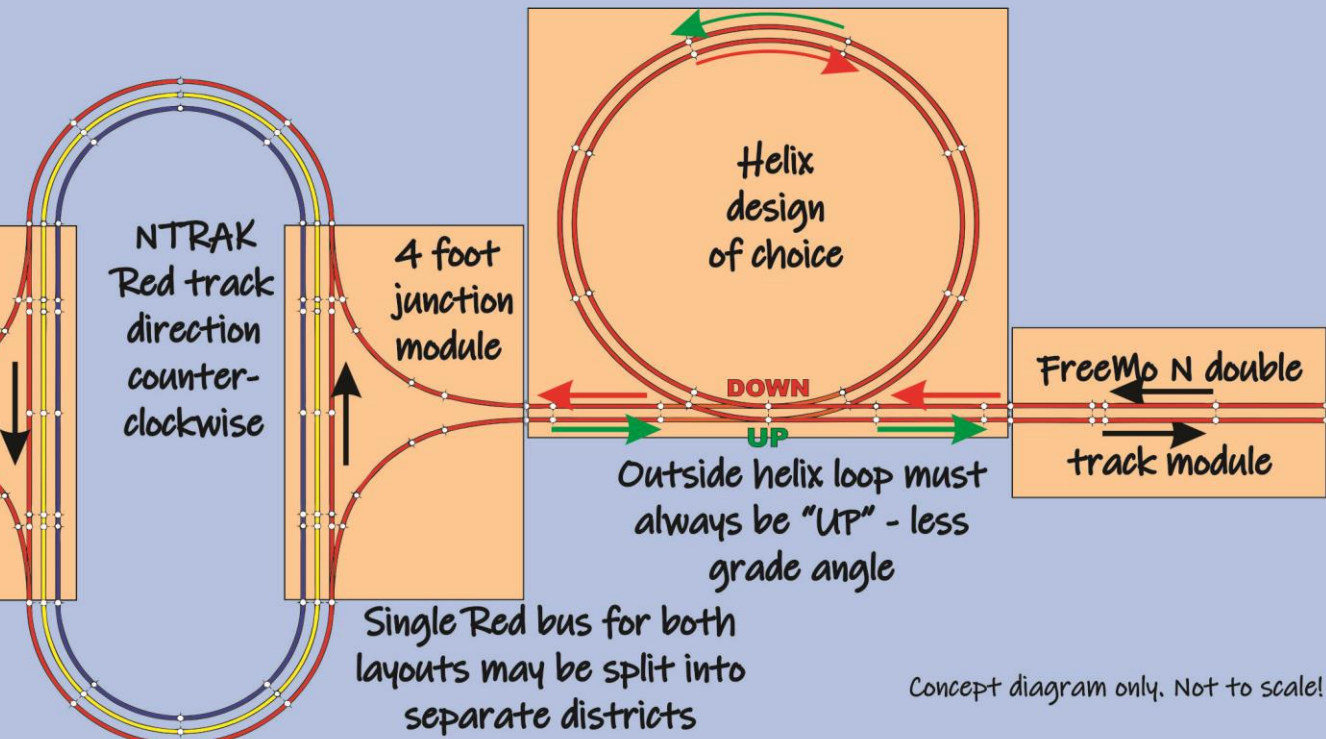


Talkin' T-TRAK is about N scale T-TRAK items of interest to N scale T-TRAK modelers. This topic came up years ago when I was asked by a friend about joining NTRAK and T-TRAK modules together in a layout because of the continuing loss of NTRAK modules due to the migration of NTRAKers to T-TRAK. But, at this time there is a plan to connect FreeMo N also so here are my thoughts about that possibility . . . Talkin' T-TRAK **EXTENDED**

## T-TRAK to NTRAK HELIX



## NTRAK to FreeMo N HELIX

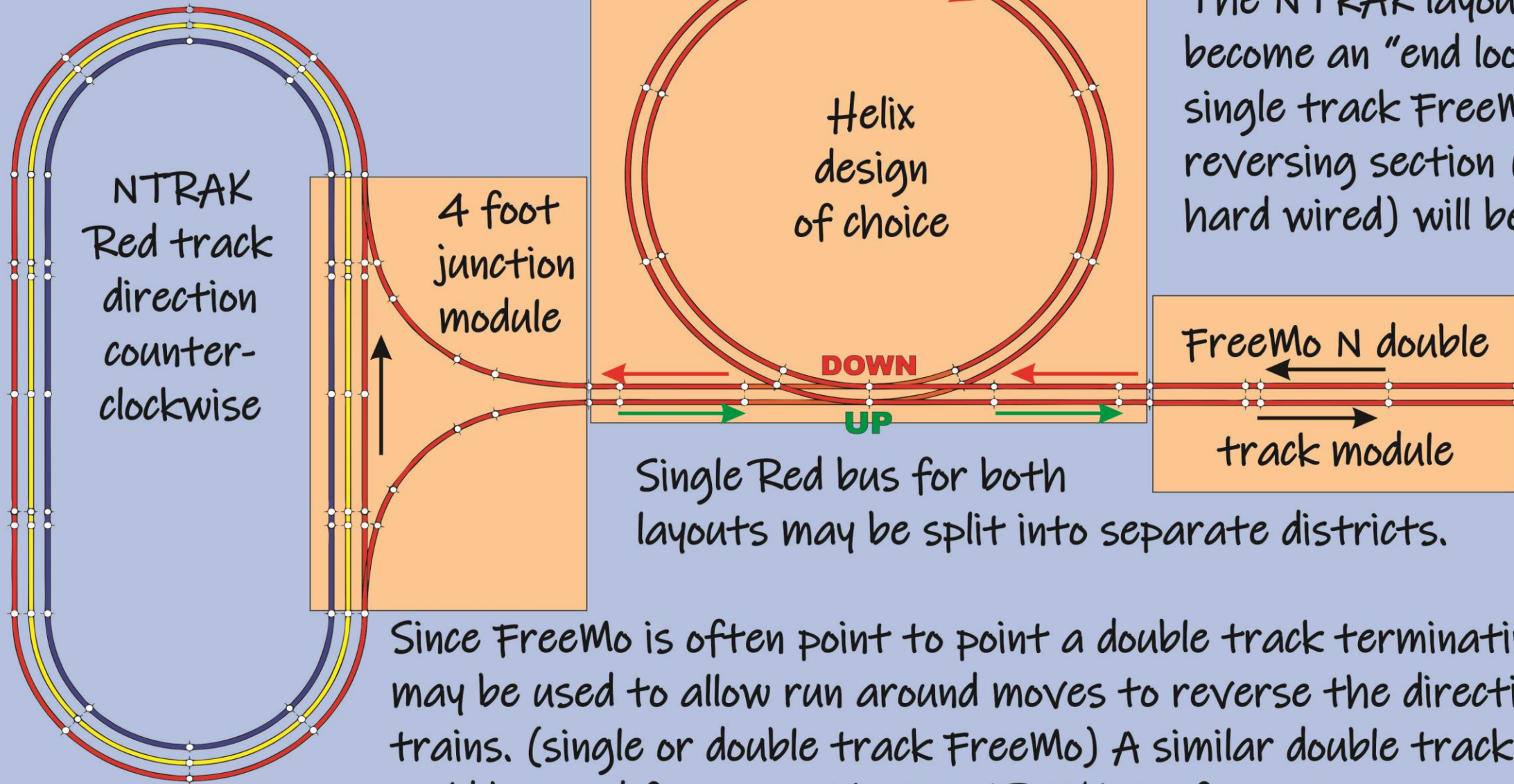


Concept diagram only. Not to scale!

The biggest problem joining the 3 modular formats isn't the various standards, it's the different module heights. Without the availability of a long straight incline a circular incline, a helix, is necessary. Combining T-TRAK and NTRAK has been a topic for discussion for years. Unless you have removable legs that fit into pockets under the NTRAK modules (shorter legs could be used) cutting attached NTRAK module legs is not a good long range plan. Raising T-TRAK tables has been done, but availability of those spacers limits the number of layout tables available. Longer legs under NTRAK modules would lift to FreeMo N height.

# FreeMo N to NTRAK HELIX

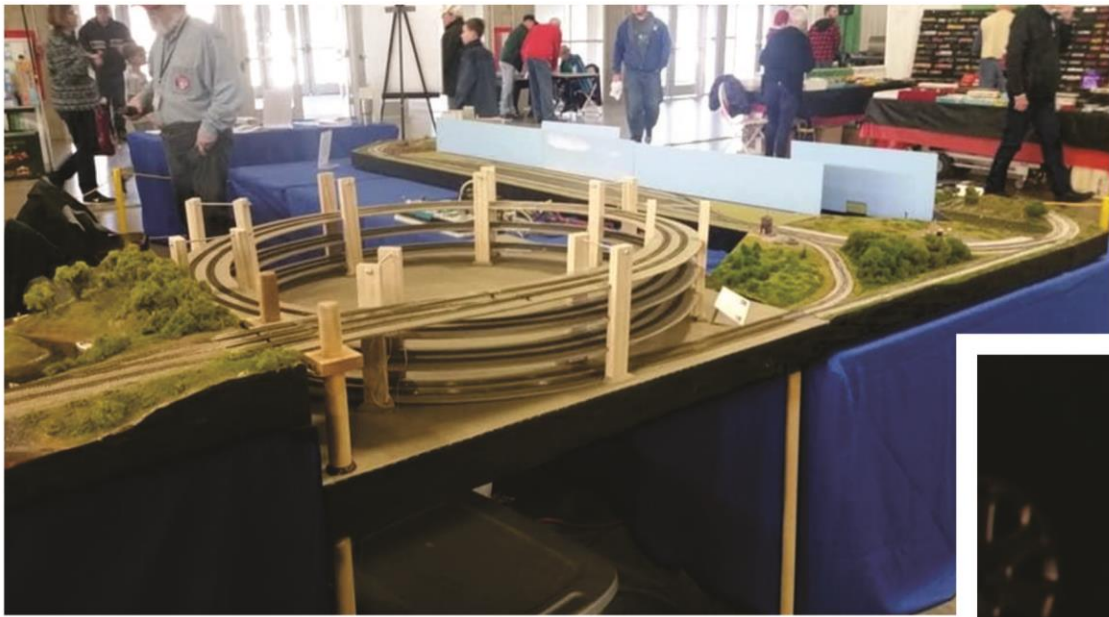
Concept diagram only. Not to scale!



The NTRAK layout would become an "end loop". For single track FreeMo a reversing section (auto or hard wired) will be required.

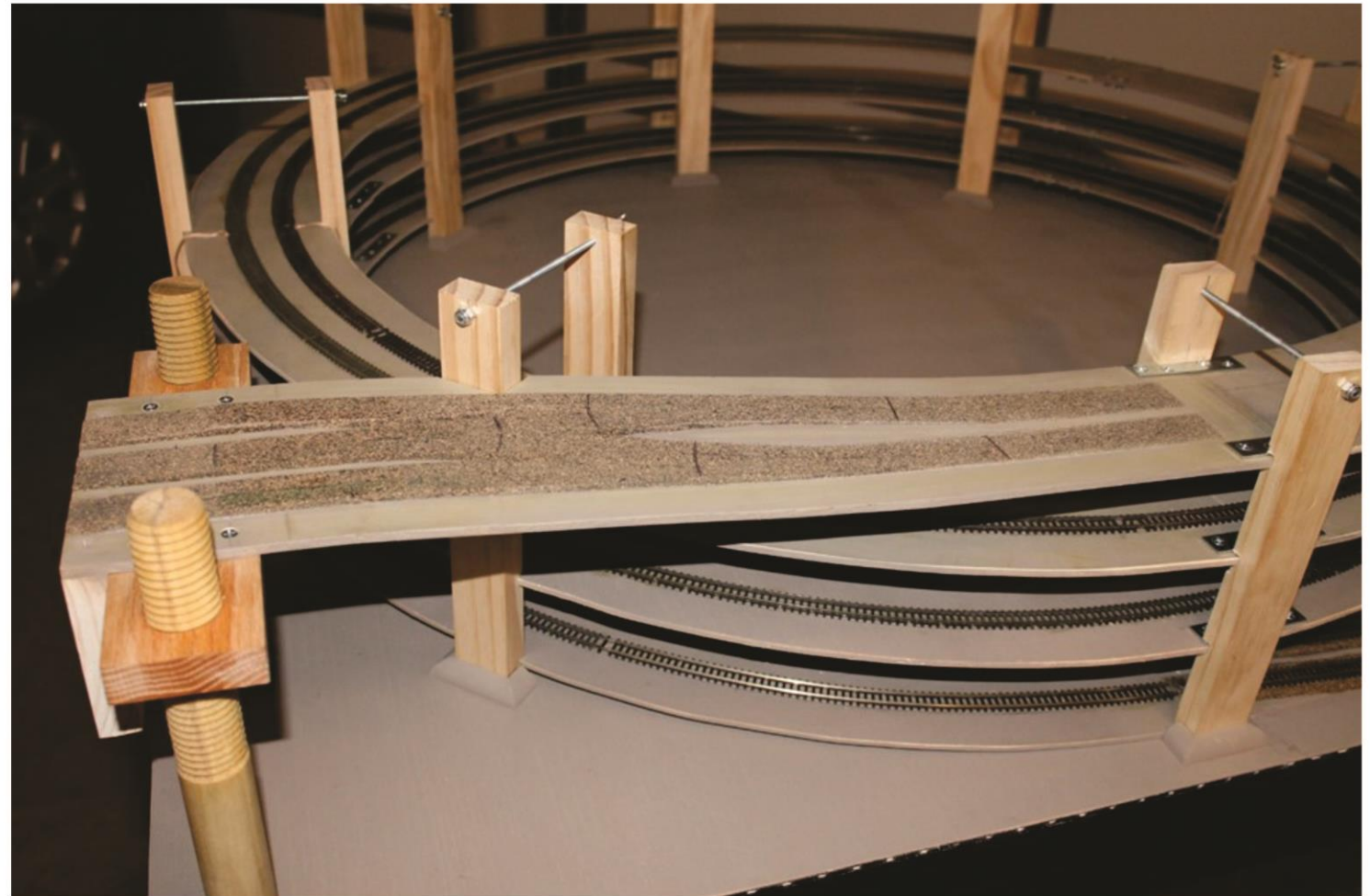
Single Red bus for both layouts may be split into separate districts.

Since FreeMo is often point to point a double track terminating module may be used to allow run around moves to reverse the direction of trains. (single or double track FreeMo) A similar double track module could be used for a FreeMo to NTRAK interface.



Over the years many helix designs have been published and I'm not about to do yet another!

Lee Williams published this excellent design in the NRail newsletter of July/August 2020. That article outlines the design and construction of this helix purposely built to connect T-TRAK layouts to NTRAK layouts but features a far more complex wiring requirement.



**T-TRAK:** Ordinary "off the shelf" large junction with the straight track between the curves - no modifications. May require KATO/flex track adapter.

**NTRAK:** Requires a custom built junction module (based on a 4 ft. straight??)

May require KATO/flex track adapter

The same junction module could be used for FreeMo N connection or a second for connecting all 3 formats.

The need for a KATO/flex track adapter depends on the track used in the helix

**FreeMo N:** Standard 2 track straight module or slightly modified to allow run through operation. Code 80/55 track adapter may be required.

All trains may stay in their format layout OR pass through the junctions into and out of the neighboring modular format as desired.

**NO destructive modifications are required.** NO limiting special pieces.



SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED

# TEXAS EXPRESS

The 2023 NMRA  
National Convention



*August 20-26*

DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
GAYLORD TEXAN RESORT GRAPEVINE



The NMRA  
TEXAS EXPRESS  
National Convention  
and the  
National Train Show  
in Grapevine Texas  
is expected to have a  
combined layout of  
T-TRAK, NTRAK and  
FreeMo N displays.

I'm looking forward to see  
how they accomplish their  
interconnections.

# THANKS

## For Watching

A **ZoomTRAK** presentation by **True North Rail**



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