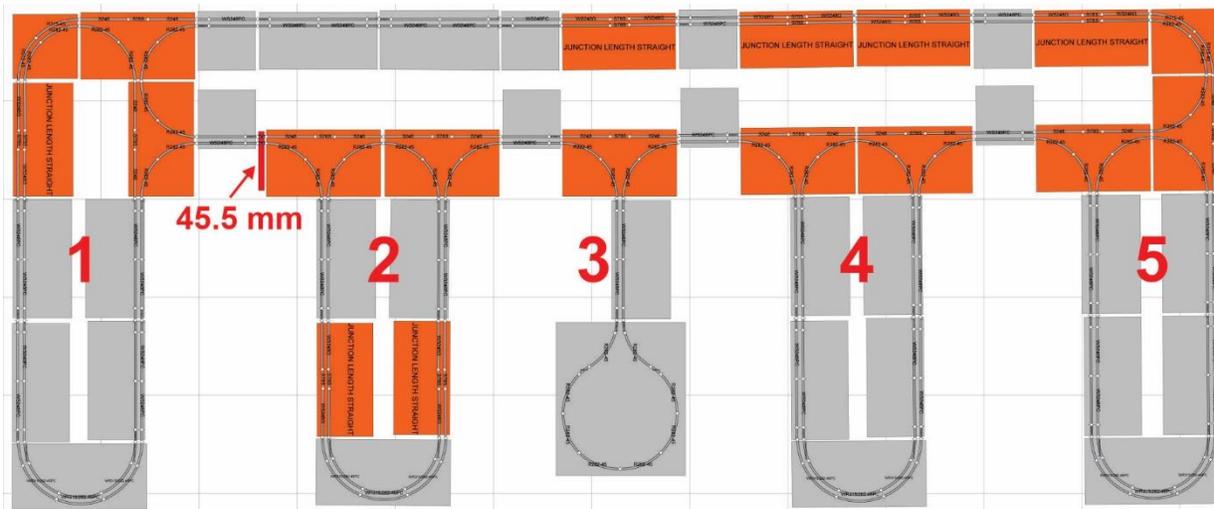


**Introducing Junction Length Straight Modules**

The T-TRAK standard “Steve Jackson Junctions” are 597 mm long while a standard double straight module is 620 mm long resulting in a 23 mm length difference. That difference makes having an unequal number of junctions on each side of a loop a loop side length differential that must be corrected or the layout design is not possible. The orange modules in the diagrams represent standard T-TRAK corners, junctions and the suggested junction length straights. The grey modules are for illustrative purposes only. Several more modules could be added for a larger operational layout.

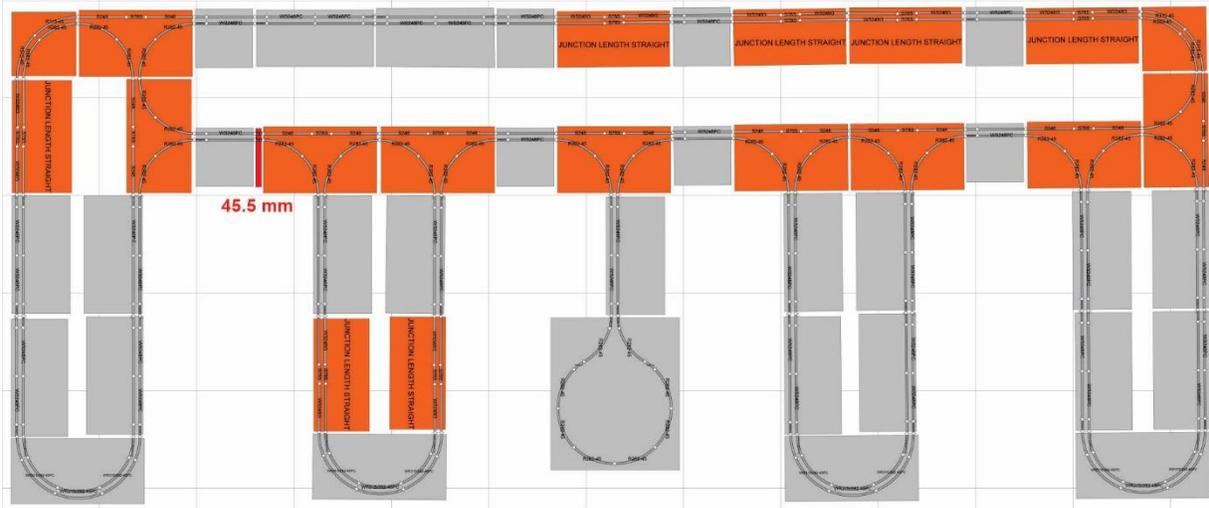


**LOOPS 1 & 5:** An earlier introduction to T-TRAK standard Steve Jackson Junctions illustrated their use with a “spine” of a single row of modules. Loops 1 & 5, although of slightly different configurations, include 597 mm long “Junction Length Straight” modules creating a main loop “spine”. This spinal loop could have loops tapped off both sides but for instructional purposes we will only show loops tapped off one side for clarity. These diagrams will show the required junction length straights directly opposite the junctions they are used to equate on the opposite side of the loop.

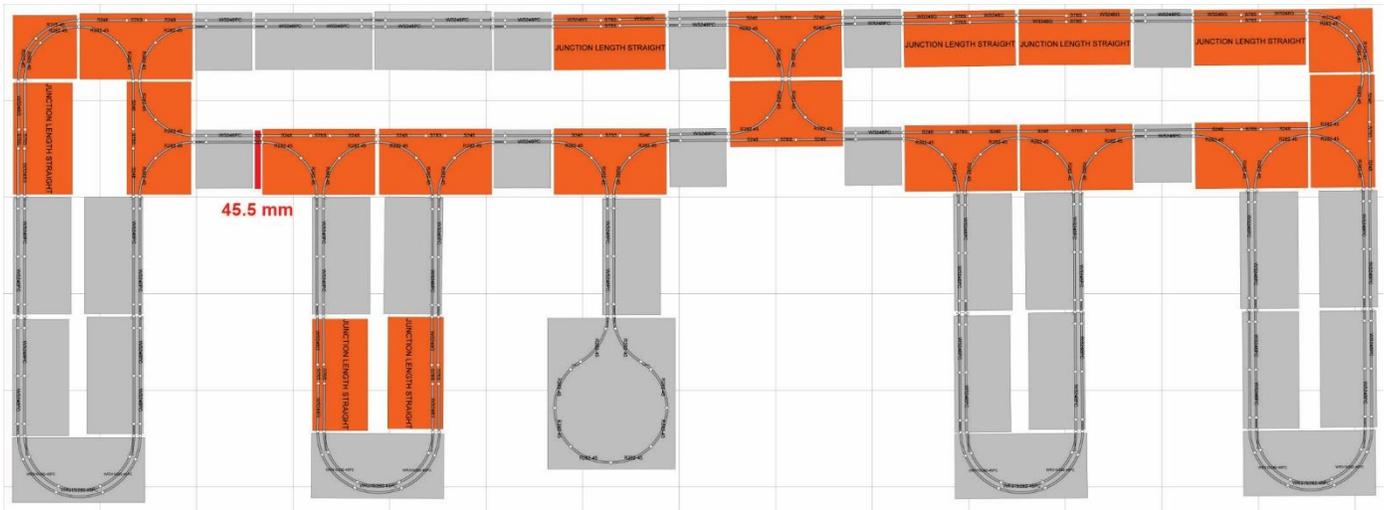
**LOOP 4:** The two junctions used to create loop #4 have two junction length straights located on the opposite side of the spinal loop to equalize both sides of the spinal loop.

**LOOP 3:** Loop #3 is actually a single tap to a balloon track. The single junction requires a single junction length straight on the opposite side of the spinal loop to equalize both sides.

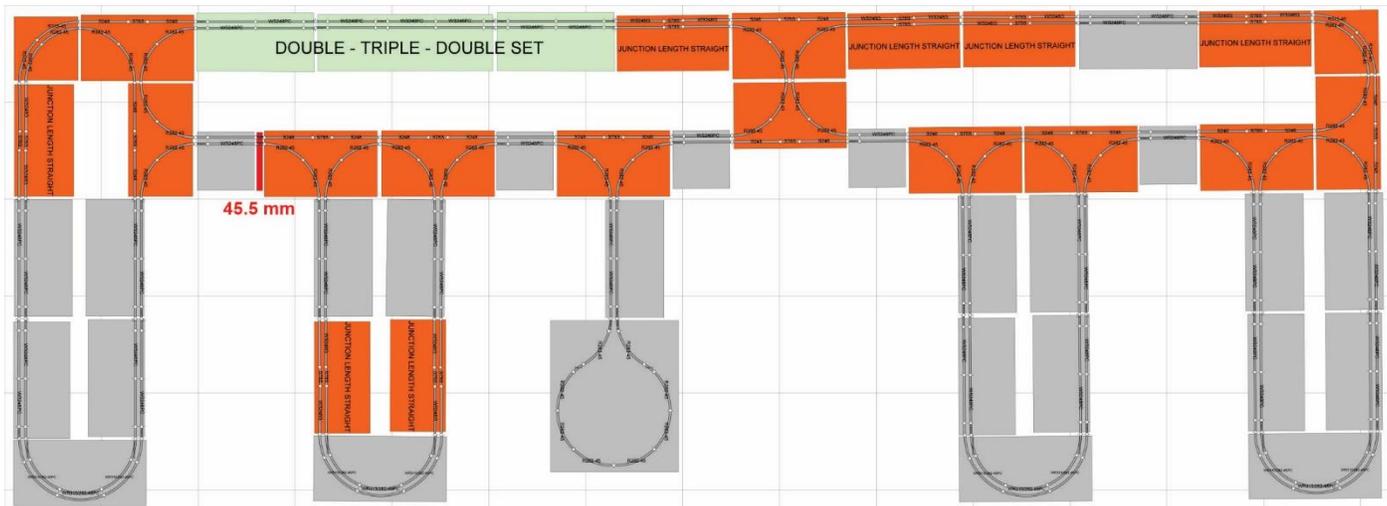
**LOOP 2:** But what about loop#2? Loop #2 shows the approved use of a pair of junction length straight modules as “non-standard modules”, one on each side of a loop to equalize the length of the loop’s sides. The junction length straights could be placed end to end or in a row in a non-loop situation, such as the track to the balloon track in loop #3. But, have you noticed that the pair of junctions that created loop #2 do not have junction length straight modules on the other side of the spinal loop? Although we are talking about junction length straight modules here I will let you in on a little trick. A pair of junctions end to end at 1194 mm are 46 mm shorter than a pair of double modules at 1240 mm. Now, short pieces of track could be cut and created at 46 and 23 mm (single junction length correction) but not always possible. KATO has a 45.5 mm piece of single straight track in their “Short Track Assortment #20-091. This piece of track could be added to the two junctions to correct the need for a 46 mm correction. Tiny modules as a windrow of trees or a roadway have been created.



The demonstration layout shown above may look better if the modules between the junctions were mounted reversed if possible and there are no skyboards.



In the diagrams above all modules were mounted directly opposite their counterparts for clarity. It also allows for the inclusion of another pair of junctions creating two inner loops out of the large single spinal inner loop. But . . .



. . . that is not always possible with the inclusion of module sets or modules of other sizes. Regardless of the layout components the main requirement is to equalize both sides of the loops involved.