

PSLTC Hill Modules

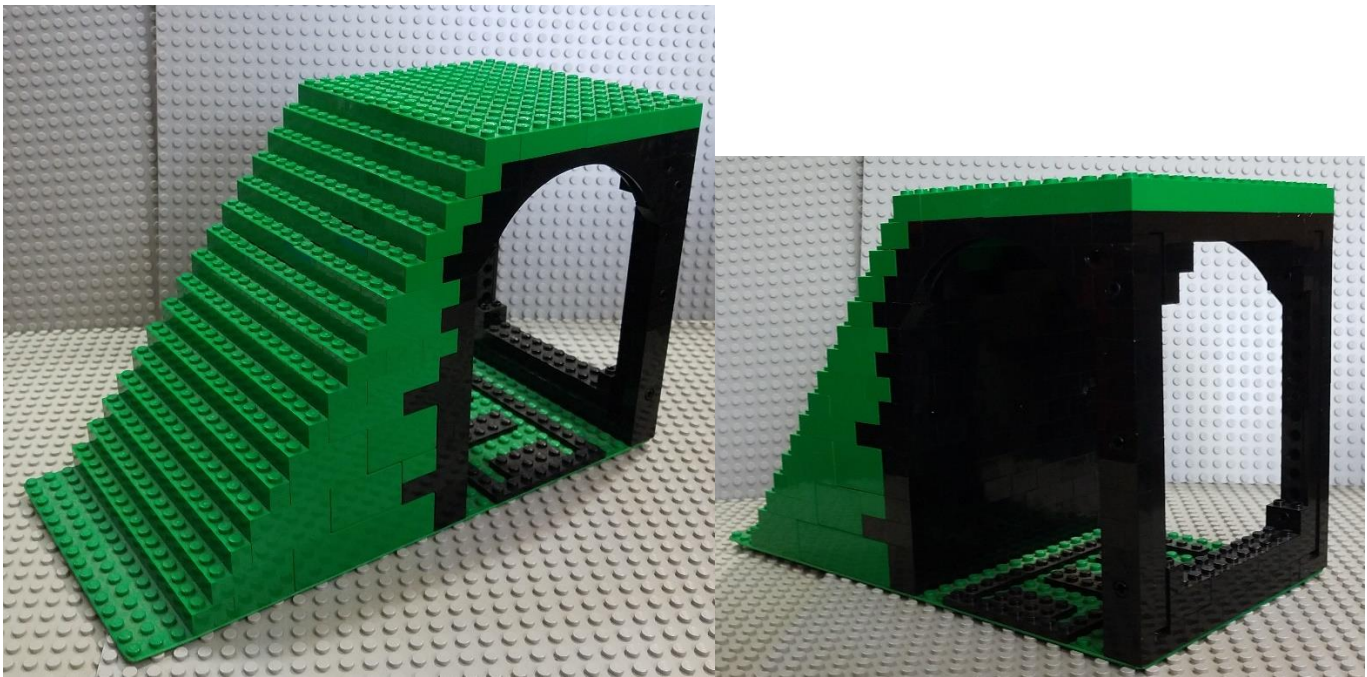
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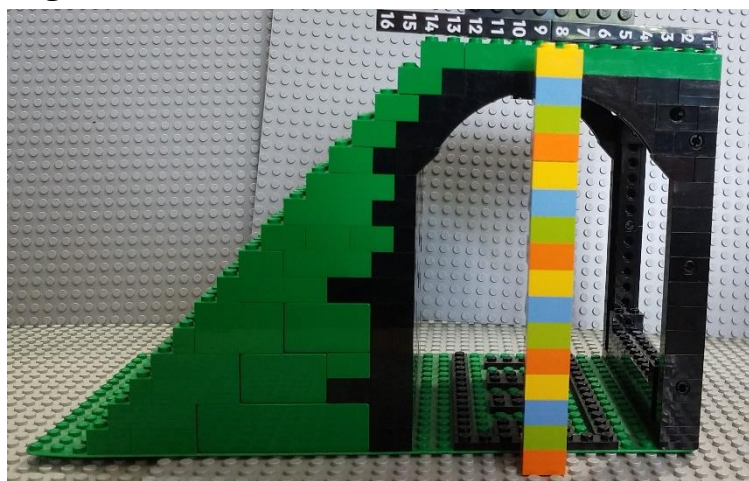
Purpose

The Puget Sound Lego Train Club uses standardized hill modules for three purposes: to provide simple terrain variation, to increase visual interest by allowing trains to run at different elevations (and vanish inside tunnels), and to cover the transition between tables set at different heights. This is done in a modular fashion so the hills can be easily and flexibly reused for different layouts and so any member can contribute easily-made modules that will fit together with other members' modules. The consequence of this modularity is that landscape made from hill modules tends to be less natural and aesthetically pleasing than landscape built by a single builder as landscape.



Standards

Hill modules are built on green 32-stud-deep baseplates and are multiples of 16 studs wide (usually 32, 48, or 64 studs wide). At the rear of each module at the 16-brick height the module should have 13 or 14 studs of flat, unadorned green to accommodate possible track in the standard track position. A good option is the ability to add terrain or scenicked material to this area when track will not be present. The dominant color scheme from the front of the module is green, while the primary color scheme from the back is black with some visible green. (Hill modules are frequently placed on the back edge of tables whence the back can be seen from the other side of the layout.) On both



edges, the part visible from the front is green, with three bare studs and then a profile of one brick rise for every stud over until the height reaches 16 bricks. Note that this profile should not be maintained between the edges, as that is very boring. Unless the module's design precludes it, modules should accommodate trains running under them by being open from 3 to 14 studs from the back to a height of at least 11 bricks (and 14 bricks at the 8.5 studs

from the back point, which is the center of the tunnel). The sides of the module can always be assumed to be hidden, either by another module or by an endcap of some kind. Modules can have a Technic pinhole at the 14-brick height 2.5 studs from the back to help alignment (using a Technic pin or axle pin); connecting modules with 1x4 green plates also helps greatly with alignment.

History

The PSLTC hill module standard was inspired by the COLTC hill module standard (<https://news.lugnet.com/trains/?n=26748>).

Examples

Modules can come in more-or-less straight configurations, include 90-degree corners (inside or outside), incorporate railroad tunnel portals to allow trains to run straight into or under the hills, include road tunnel portals, transition to rail bridges or elevated rail (at the 16-brick height), or do many things as yet unimagined.

