

Camera installed in Train

A FPV (First Person View) camera system used by model airplane enthusiasts. Several online dealers of these systems are available. Our system came from: HobbyWireless.com

The components are:

FPV 582	5.8 GHz 200mW transmitter/receiver combo
AN5805	5dBi High gain whip antenna on receiver (replacing the Standard antenna that is supplied)
NANO	NANO high resolution color camera by Sony NTSC 550 lines (PAL also available) – transmitter supports 12V camera directly

Approx cost: \$250 plus shipping, handling, taxes

For larger layouts (only if needed), add second receiver & high gain antenna plus Oracle Diversity controller for real time video switching between the two receivers (still using a single transmitter). Approximate cost is \$250 additional. Note this cost includes a second transmitter/receiver combo, as the combo is more cost effective and provides a backup transmitter or equipping a second loco. Equipping a second loco will also require the purchase of an additional camera.

Notes:

- One transmitter can be in use at any given time, unless additional receivers and TVs are installed.
- The transmitter/receiver combos can be configured on different channels enabling multiple to be in use simultaneously if desired.
- Receivers supply standard composite video and audio (RCA connectors) for video/audio out, and each receiver will support two outputs (e.g., to two TVs) simultaneously (need to order additional cable "Replacement cable for FPV 582 receiver" (\$7)).
- Will need to order or provide power supplies for the receiver(s) (nominal 9-12Vdc).
- Minimal soldering skills required to reconfigure provided cable to plug in camera to transmitter.
- Please be sure to review transmitter, transmitter antenna and camera sizes to ensure it will fit in your device. Other camera options are available. We installed in an S Scale loco – installations in smaller scales may require the use of a boxcar or flatcar.
- Other frequency options (900 MHz, 1200 MHz and 2400 MHz) are available, but not tested by our club.
- We used the antenna supplied with the receiver on the transmitter in the loco as the supplied antenna for the transmitter was a right angle antenna and not suitable for the loco.
- If you're interested in capturing video from the train camera on your PC (e.g., to post to a web site), use a product such as the HONESTECH VHS to DVD 5.0 Deluxe product. This provides a small box that connects RCA video & audio to a USB port and provides a Windows application to capture video.
- Some newer LCD/LED TVs will drop the video signal at signal dropouts. A model we have tested, use and works well is the Samsung 27" LCD TV (P2770HD).
- Other camera options are available from HobbyWireless.com as well as from other suppliers of mini security cameras.