Quick Start Guide :

Use Custom Load Schedules at Spurs (in conjunction with Staging tracks)

This step-by-step guide will enable the user to set up OpsPro to utilize schedules with "staging"-type tracks, to allow trains to forward cars to specific locations on the layout.   And, when using a particular option for "staging" tracks, can also move cars from staging on one end to staging on the other end. This helps to simulate local delivery as well as distant (beyond layout) car/load requests.

The key lies in a "staging" track's capacity to assign a custom load to a given car-type. By coupling this capacity with the scheduling power of a spur, the user can essentially pick where a car (with a custom load) can be sent. The basics that are needed for this are… *custom loads available for selection, a spur with a schedule and staging tracks set up with certain options selected* (explained below).

Step-by-step "How-To":

1. Review guide <HowTo #006b> to create custom loads.
2. Review guide <HowTo #005d> to create and assign schedules.
3. Open **PanelPro** (if not already open).
4. Select **Operations--->Locations** from the main menu.
   a. Select "Edit" for the location with the staging track to modify.
      i. Select "Edit" for the target staging track.
      ii. Verify all car-types are serviceable by clicking "Select All" (it may be necessary to maximize the "Edit Location" window to view all choices).
      iii. Verify the only boxes checked in the lower area (Optionals) are:
         1. *Empty cars with custom loads.*
         2. *Generate custom loads for any spur (multiple trains).*
         3. *Generate custom loads for any staging track* (this option is what allows the program to send cars from staging to staging).

      iv. Click on the "Save Staging Track" button (lower right).
      v. Click on the "Ship All" button.
      vi. Under "Select loads serviced by this track" section, click "Exclude".
      vii. Select "E" from the pull-down menu and click "Add Load".
      viii. Select "L" from the pull-down menu and click "Add Load".
      ix. Under "Select loads shipped from this track" section, click "Exclude".
      x. Repeat Steps vii-viii.
      xi. Click "Save Track", then close the window.

   b. Click "Save Staging Track" then close the window.
   c. Repeat Step 4.a.i. to modify another track at the same location.
   d. Click "Save Location" then close the window.

5. Close the **Locations** window.
6. Exit **PanelPro** or continue to develop other OpsPro sections.

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(continued)

If the user has multiple staging yards (end-points), the tracks in both staging yards should initially be set up the same. Use this guide to repeat the process for all "staging" locations and all tracks therein.

Upon completion of this task, the program will automatically use whatever custom loads have been created for any particular car-type (e.g. Ice for refers, Scrap for gonds, Diesel for tanks). It does this by looking for a schedule requesting the loads and then assigning those loads. If no schedule is found, it can send the loads to staging. These cars/loads can also be further guided by the "staging" features called "Load Options" and "Ship Load Options". See guide <HowTo #009c> for how this is accomplished…

All these quick-start guides are intended for use with OperationsPro, a stand-alone application accessed from within PanelPro.   The use of any other PanelPro functions (such as creating a panel) is NOT required.