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IN THIS EPISODE...

Howard Smith and Phil Parker visit the North Norfolk Railway to look at its on-site model railways, miniature railway, ride its WD 2-10-0 locomotive and cook a footplate breakfast.



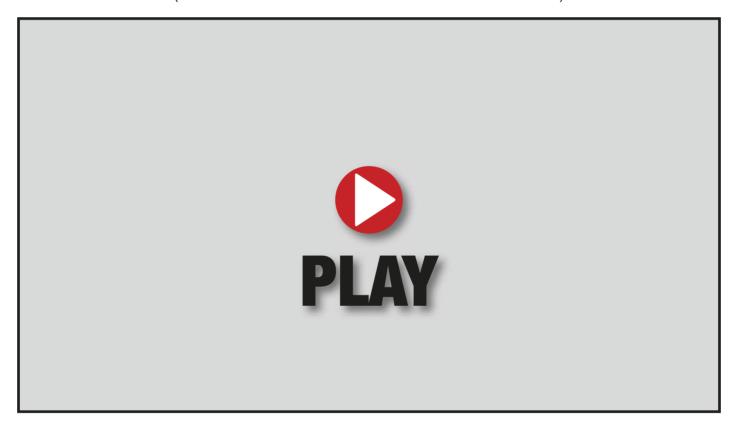
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS MONTH'S DVD

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Contents | Spring 2018

LAYOUTS

LEIGHTON BUZZARD (EM) Tony Gee takes us on a journey through the final stations on Peter Denny's iconic Buckingham Branch.

NINE MILLS (N)
David Forshaw's layout has a fictitious south Midlands location, but plenty of LMS and GWR interest.

CHURCHILL HALT (O) We enjoy a look John Taylor's latest project while it's still being built.

NO PLACE (00) Les Richardson admits to spending too much time in colliery yards as lad. His oddly named layout is the result.

PRACTICAL BRM

RESIN GOODS SHED

Resin kits can be tricky, but not if you follow Paul Bason's useful advice.

6 A few details can add life to otherwise empty coaches, says Tony Wright.

6 BRM PROJECT LAYOUT -

Phil Parker builds a stick fiddle vard for his portable Didsbury Green layout

GET STARTED IN 3D **PRINTING**

3D printing doesn't have to be technical or difficult. Steven Da Costa introduces the basics.

2KNOW YOUR HEADLAMP CODES

Tony Wright and Ian Wilson show you how to hang headlamps correctly.

MAKE A CARRIAGE COTTAGE

Inspired by a trip to the North Norfolk railway, Phil Parker finds a new use for an old coach.

MPROVE LOCO RUNNING Michael Russell has a few tips for getting the best from RTR locomotives.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

TRADE NEWS We hear about a new wagon from Accurascale, a Dapol GWR Mogul and more.

NEW MODELS A look at this month's latest commissions, including those from Kernow and Cheltenham Model Centre.

N GAUGE CARFLATS Howard Smith sings the praises of six new carflats from the N Gauge Society.

NEW GEAR

Printable and laser cut kits, bogies, new couplings and other items heading to retail.

HATTON'S P CLASS

Anticipation is already building for this multi-liveried little loco. Andy York investigates.

ELLIS CLARK Mk1 COACHES

They're weighty units at over 1kg apiece, but are they any good? Howard Smith finds out.

2 HATTON'S WARWELL Andy York reaches for the superlatives in his appraisal of this O gauge tank

PROTOTYPE INSPIRATION -RAILWAY COTTAGES

In which we learn how redundant coaches were turned into bijou residences.

THE BIGGEST LITTLE RAILWAY

Jennifer Kirk recalls the many trials and tribulations of building a model railway along the Great Glen Way.

BMRA RESULTS The votes have been counted and we reveal the results of our hotly contested annual competition.

ALLY PALLY PREVIEW A fixture on many calendars, our London show is better than ever. Here are just a few of the highlights.

TAIL LAMP North Norfolk Railway Education Manager, Daisy Robinson, explains how targeted workshops can inform, entertain and encourage further participation.













ON THIS MONTH'S BRMTV DVD

Howard and Phil don winter woollies and head to the North Norfolk Railway.

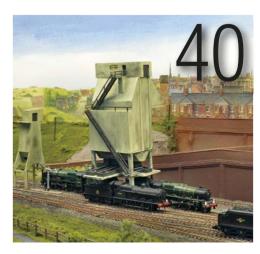
The welcome is warm, even if the weather was freezing. They enjoy a privileged tour, as well as breakfast cooked on the hotplate. Andrew the signalman is a star in the making, as

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in the making, as you'll see...









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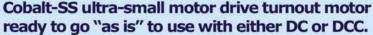
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n case you haven't noticed, we've been trying to freshen up the content of our cover-mounted DVDs recently. This started with a road trip to the Pendon Museum, and this month we've kept up the pace with a visit to the North Norfolk Railway. Howard and Phil are your hosts on this occasion, although the real stars of the show are Education Manager Daisy Robinson and Signalman Andrew Vaughan, who, it's fair to say, is a lively and engaging storyteller. It's great stuff, and next month sees my DVD debut when we go behind the scenes at the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways. I'm still picking bits of it out of my boots, but they put on a fun and interesting day for us. As always, head to RMweb.co.uk (or write to us) to let us know what you think about the new format, and what you'd like to see more or less of on our DVDs. They won't always entail trips to heritage railways, but we're keen to explore the possibilities of this programme-

Otherwise, we have another packed issue for you. We lead with a look at the 'Leighton Buzzard Linslade' and 'Grandborough Junction' portions of Peter Denny's much-vaunted 'Buckingham' layout. While new owner Tony Gee is still in the midst of restoring the full layout to its original glory, he takes this section on the exhibition circuit. Indeed, it's one of the 40 great layouts you'll be able to see at our Alexandra Palace show on March 24-25 - see www. world-of-railways.co.uk for further details and page 104 for a preview.

style approach.

We have three other great layouts to peruse, including a first look at 'Churchill Halt' as it undergoes the various stages of development - a preview, if you like. A good selection of practical content is a given, of course, and you wouldn't expect anything less, but I'm really pleased to feature an extended article on page 72 written by Jenny Kirk, who was one of the team captains from the 'Biggest Little Railway in the World' TV show. I'm also eager to see the winners of the British Model Railway Awards, which hadn't been unveiled at the time of writing. The results are in on page 90, however. And then our Cakebox Challenge is still cooking up a storm. RMweb is where most of the action is, but above we have a peek at a brand new 'box in progress - Kevin Phare's aptly named 'Cold!', which is shown here with a light dusting of the chilly stuff that inspires its name. Kevin will be writing a practical about this lovely bit of scenic modelling in a future

Finally, and sadly, we note the passing of Steffan Lewis, whose 'Maindee East' layout, below, is modelling of the highest order and, in its depiction of general railway filth, ticks lots of boxes for me.

Respect, and our condolences are most certainly due.





BRM APRIL ISSUE ON SALE MARCH 29 - SEE P139

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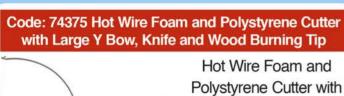
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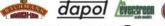
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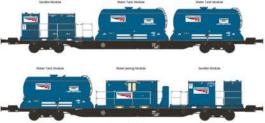
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H4-FEAE-002 6410xx in Freightliner green H4-FEAE-003 6410xx in Freightliner green H4-FEAE-004 6410xx in Freightliner green

H4-FEAE-005 641015 in Freightliner green with track panel carriers

H4-FEAS-001 6406xx in GBRf blue H4-FEAS-002 6406xx in GBRf blue H4-FEAS-003 6406xx in GBRf blue H4-FEAS-004 6406xx in GBRf blue



H4-FEAS-005 6409xx in GBRf/Metronet yellow with track panel carrier H4-FEAS-006 6409xx in GBRf/Metronet yellow with track panel carrier H4-FEAS-007 640931xx in TransPlant yellow

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(HORNBY) 2018 Range Announced - see the full range at www.hattons.co.uk/hornby2018

SR 'Lord Nelson' 4-6-0 Pre-order from £136. TTS-fitted £156 Due in Stock: June 2018



R3603TTS 30850 "Lord Nelson" in BR green with late crest TTS sound fitted

R3634 851 "Sir Francis Drake" in Southern Railway olive green R3635 30863 "Lord Rodney" in BR green with early emblem

Class J36 0-6-0 Pre-order from £112. TTS-fitted £132 Due in Stock: July 2018



R3600TTS 673 "Maude" in North British Railway lined black - as preserved - TTS sound fitted R3621 851 722 in LNER black

R3622 65311 "Haig" in BR black with early emblem

Class 8P Streamlined Princess Coronation 4-6-2 Pre-order for £152 Due in Stock: October 2018



R3623 6221 "Queen Elizabeth" in LMS coronation blue R3639 6244 "King George VI" in LMS maroon R3677 6229 "Duchess of Hamilton" in LMS crimson lake - as preserved

Maunsell Kitchen & Dining car Pre-order for £40

Due in Stock: October 2018



R4816 7869 in SR olive green R4817 S7946S in BR green

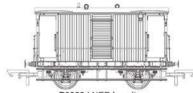
Class 87 Pre-order from £136 Due in Stock: February 2018



R3580 87035 'Robert Burns' in BR Blue R3582 87010 'King Arthur' in Intercity Swallow livery R3635 87019 "Sir Winston Churchill" in Virgin Trains red and black

LNER 20-ton Toad Brake van Pre-order for £19

Due in Stock: June 2018



R6833 LNFR bauxite R6833A LNER bauxite R6834 BR livery (TBC) R6834A BR livery (TBC)

2018 Range Announced

see the full range at www.hattons.co.uk/bachmann2018

Class 90

Pre-order for £152.96 Due in Stock: July/August 2018



32-610 90005 "Financial Times" in Intercity Swallow livery 32-611 90037 in Railfreight Distribution sector triple grey 32-612 90042 in Freightliner Powerhaul livery

Ransomes & Rapier 45T Breakdown Crane

Pre-order for £212.46 Due in Stock: August/September 2018



@ Andy York / RMweb

38-800 SR black 38-801 GWR black 38-802 BR Black with early emblem 38-803 BR gulf red

Turbostar' DMUs

Pre-order from £199 (Estimated) Due in Stock: TBC



35-560 Class 168/3 2-car DMU 168327 in Chiltern Railways livery 35-580 Class 171 2-car DMU 171122 in Southern Railway livery 35-625 Class 170/1 3-car DMU 170104 in Cross Country livery 35-626 Class 170/4 2-car DMU 170453 in Scotrail Saltire livery

OO9 Quarry Hunslet 0-4-0ST Pre-order from £114 (Estimated) Due in Stock: TBC



391-050 "Alice" in Dlnworic Quarry red 391-051 "Britomart" in Pen-yr-Orsedd Quarry blue 391-052 "Nesta" in Penrhyn Quarry lined black 391-053 "Dorothea" in Dorothea Quarry lined green

2017/18 Announcements

Class C Wainwright 0-6-0 Pre-order from £114.71 Due in Stock: TBC



372-775 271 in SE&CR plain green 372-776 1294 in Southern Railway black 372-777 31227 in BR black with early emblem

Class 450 4-car EMU Pre-order for £240 (Estimated) Due in Stock: TBC



371-725 450073 in South West Trains livery



Visit

for all forthcoming releases

OO Gauge (1:76 Scale) Steam locos



31-933 Class 1000 Midland Compound 4-4-0 41157 in BR lined black late crest (Bac) (RRP £139.95)BARGAIN...£78



1324 Class 1366 0-6-0PT 1368 in BR black late crest (Hel) . £124 1321 Class 1366 0-6-0PT 1368 Great Western green - as preserved Hell .£124



H1413 Class 14xx 0-4-2T 1444 in BR Lined green early



31-440 Class 2MT Ivatt 2-6-2T 41243 in BR lined black



31-127 Class 30xx 2-8-0 ROD 3023 in BR black early m (Bac) (RRP £129.95) 269



31-128 Class 30xx 2-8-0 ROD 3036 in BR black early emblem - weathered (Bac) (RRP £142.95)BARGAIN . . .£72



R3455 Class 4000 'Star' 4-6-0 4013 "Knight of St Patrick .£127 in GWR Green (Hor)



R3333 Class 415 Adams Radial 4-4-2T 30584 in BR black



H1403 Class 48xx 0-4-2T 4871 in GWR Unlined green ed (DJ).....£99



R3170 Class 49xx 4-6-0 4901 'Adderley Hall' in GWR



R3499 Class 49xx 4-6-0 6947 "Helmingham Hall" in BR Green late crest - Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £95.99)BARGAIN ... £









R3494 Class 5MT Black 5 4-6-0 45025 in BR Black late280



R3385TTS Class 5MT Black 5 4-6-0 45116 in BR Lined Black early crest - TTS sound fitted (Hor)£170



R3453 Class 5MT Black 5 4-6-0 45274 in BR Black late £144



31-635A Class 64xx 0-6-0PT pannier tank 6424 in GWR green (Bac) £84.96



R3278 Class 6P Patriot 4-6-0 45518 "Bradshaw" in BR £64 80 Green early crest - Railroad range (Hor).



R3419 Class 700 "Black Motor" 0-6-0 693 in Southern Railway black (Hor) (RRP £124.99) ...BARGAIN...69



R3520 Class 7MT 4-6-2 Britannia 70007 "Coeur-de-Lion£153



.....£161



R3564 Class 8F 2-8-0 48045 in BR black late crest



R3565 Class 8F 2-8-0 8035 in LMS black (Hor). . .



R3566 Class 8P 'Rebuilt Merchant Navy' 4-6-2 35014 "Nederland Line" in BR green early emblem (Hor) . . . £157





R3284TTS Class A1 4-6-2 4472 "Flying Scotsman" in LNER Green TTS Sound - Railroad range (Hor).....



R3060 Class A1 4-6-2 60163 "Tornado" in British Railways Apple Green (Railroad Range) (Hor) (RRP £109.99)BARO



31-531 Class A2 4-6-2 60536 "Trimbush" in BR lined green early emblem (Bac) (RRP £179.95)BARGAIN. £121





R3508TTS Class A3 4-6-2 60103 "Flying Scotsman" in BR green late crest - TTS Sound fitted (Hor) £187



R3441 Class A4 4-6-2 4499 "Sir Murrough Wilson" in LNER wartime black (Hor) (RRP £164.99)BARGAIN . . .



CR7



R3546 Class B12/3 4-6-0 61576 in BR black early £136 emblem (Hor) NEW



R3004 Class B17 4-6-0 61631 "Serlby Hall" in BR Green early emblem - weathered (Hor) (RRP £131.99) BARGAIN.... £79



31-147 Cla D11/1 4-4-0 501 "Mons" in GCR green (Bac) ... £157.21



31-137A Class D11/2 4-4-0 6401 "James Fitzjames" LNER black (Bac) nes" in ... £148.71



R3495 Class D49/1 4-4-0 62760 "The Cotswold" in BR ea crest - Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £85.99)BARGAIN....



.. £110.46 Railway green (B



.£108 R3405 Class J50 0-6-0T 585 in LNER Black (Hor)



R3407 Class J50 0-6-0T 68959 in BR Black early



R3242A Class K1 2-6-0 62032 in BR Black early emblem (Hor) (RRP £129.99) BARGAI



R3243B Class K1 2-6-0 62064 in BR Black late crest (RRP £129.99)BARGAIN.



R3456 Class N15 King Arthur 4-6-0 30792 "Sir Hervis de Revel" in BR Lined Green early emblem (Hor) (RRP £160.99)BARGAIN . £108



R3560 Class Q1 0-6-0 33032 in BR black late crest (Hor)



R3559 Class Q1 0-6-0 C24 in Southern Railway wartime £100



R3411 Class S15 4-6-0 827 in Southern Railway wartime black (Hor) (RRP £155,99)



R3457 Class T9 4-4-0 116 in S green (Hor) (RRP £149.99) . . .



35-052 LNWR 0-6-2T Webb Coal tank 58900 in BR black



35-051 LNWR 0-6-2T Webb Coal tank 7841 in LMS



R3524 Rebuilt 'West Country' 4-6-2 34096 "Trevone" in



32-858 Standard Class 9F 2-10-0 92189 in BR black late



LB & SCR 32-254A WD Austerity 2-8-0 77003 in LNER plain 6AIN. £80 black (Bac). £135.96

...£123

NEW

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R3571 Class 50 D400 in BR blue - Class 50 50th nniversary pack - Special edition (Hor) .£14



5311 Class 53 D0280 "Falcon" in BR two tone green - Ltd

66 66040 in EWS - DCC sound fitted (Ba

R3268 Class 67 67003 in Arriva Trains Wales (Hor)

4D-022-008 Class 68 68003 "Astute" in Direct Rail

Services compass (Dap). £131.71 ID-022-008D Class 68 68003 "Astute" in Direct Rail Services compass -

fitted (Dap) NEW 22-009D Class 68 69006 "Daring" Scotrail - DCC Fitted (Dap) NEV £151.1 40-022-009S Class 68 68006 "Daring" Scotrail - DCC Sound fitted (Dap) £254.9

s 68 68010 "Oxford Flyer" in Chiltern Railwa

ICC sound litted (Dap) ID-022-011D Class 68 68010 "Oxford Flyer" in Chiltern Railways

4D-022-012S Class 68 68015 in Chiltern Railways - DC

Electric locos

7701 Class 77 EM2 Woodhead electric E27005 "Minerva" in BR

en half yellow panels - Ltd Ed for Olivias Trains (Hel).

CC fitted (Dap) NEW 022-010S Class 68 6

itted (Dap) NEW D-022-011S Class

NEW



DMUs

32-286 Class 101 2 Car DMU in BR green small yellor



£152.9

£151.16

£151.1

£254.9

BARGAIN

4D-009-HAT01 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' 120 in 'GWR 150' chocolate and cream - Hatton's limited edition (Dap) £129.95



D-009-HAT04 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubble ar' 121020 in nited edition (Dap). . .£129.95



D-009-HAT02 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' 121032 in Arriva Trains Wales - Hatton's limited edition (Dap) £129.95



4D-009-HAT07 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' 55022 in original Network South East - Hatton's limited edition (Dap) . £129,95



4D-009-HAT05 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' 55027 in ted edition (Dap) £129.95



D-009-HAT06 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubb 960010 in Railtrack "coaching stock" maroon - Hatton's£129.95 nited edition (Dap).....



4D-009-HAT03 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' 960011 in Railtrack blue and green - Hatton's limited edition (Dap) £129.95



4D-009-001 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' W55020 in BR green speed whiskers (Dap) £123.25 4D-009-0020 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' W55028 in BR green small yellow panels - DCC Filted (Dap) £142.70





NEW



R3399 EWS freight train pack Class 67 in EWS and three MHA open wagons (Hor) (RRP £241.99)BARGAIN ...£139 Steam train packs



Diesel locos



10001HAP 10001 BR Bruit 001HAP 10001 BR Brunswick green orange, black & orange ing. Aug 1956 - Oct 1957. (Dap) (RRP £105)BARGAIN....£9



R3504TTS Class 08 08623 in DB Schenker - TTS Sound



1603 Class 16 North British Type 1 D8407 in BR green with full vellow ends - Ltd Ed of 750 (H (RRP £134.95) GAIN ...£72



1604 Class 16 North British Type 1 D8409 in BR gre - Gloss finish - Ltd Ed of 750 (Hel) (RRP £134.95)BA



2655 Class 26/0 26 grey (Hel) NEW



2656 Class 26/0 26010 in BR railfreight grey red



2657 Class 26/0 26011







2662 Class 26/0 diesel D5309 in BR green (Hel)









2640 Class 26/1 26040 in BR railfreight grey red





2813 Class 28 CoBo D5706 in BR green small yellow



2814 Class 28 CoBo D5717 in BR green small yellow



SB



32-377A Class 37/4 37401 "Mary Queen Of Scots" in BR £117.26



32-391DS Class 37/7 37796 in Railfreight coal secto (DCC Sound Fitted) (Bac).



R3392TTS Class 40 40164 in BR blue - TTS sound fitted -Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £99.99).



R3480 Class 92 92016 "Brahms" in Railfreight grey EWS 'Beastie' vinyls (Hor) (RRP £99.99) ... BARGAIN ... £5£52 £74 **HSTs**





Gra = Graham Farish, Hel = Heljan, Hor = Hornby, Jav = Javis, Len = Lenz, Met = Metcalfe, Oxf = Oxford Diecast, Pec = Peco, Poc = Pocketbond, Vi = Vir Trains



Prices valid until 28/02/18

All prices correct when going to press. Errors excepted.





R3341 Class 2-HAL 2 Car EMU 2677 in BR blue (Hor) (RRP £130.25)BARGAIN.



R3341A Class 2-HAL 2623 2 car EMU in BR blue (Hor



Track Maintenance vehicles



rised OO Track Cleaner motorised B800 Non-mot Train sets - analogue



R1151 Caledonian Belle trainset 0-4-0 steam loco in blue 4



R1180 GWR Postal Express train set - operating travelling post office (Hor).....

Train sets - digital



R1172 e-Link Majestic train set A1 Pacific Pepper Class in Experimental blue & BR Class 47 (Hor) (RRP £299.99) BARGAIN



R1126 Mixed Freight DCC digital train set Class 08 0-6-0 BR diesel electric loco, steam loco & 4 wagons (Hor)



R1125 Somerset Belle train set Class 3F 0-6-0 S&DJR 0-6-0 steel loco & 3 wagons - DCC control (Hor) (RRP £210.99)BARGAIN.



30-049 The Permanent Way DCC train set Digital £233.70



R1184 Western Express digital train set eLink TTS sound Hall steam loco (Hor) (RRP £329.99)...BARGAIN...£199 Coaches





39-621 60' ex-SECR Birdcage brake third 3446 in SR olive



9-601 60' ex-SECR Birdcage brake third lavatory 3518 i



green (Bac) NEW.....



39-620 60' SECR Birdcage brake third 1182 in SE&CR dark lake (Bac







nd grey (Hor) NEW

Wagons NEW

yellow (Dap) NEW 4F-016-111 12 ton band €9.50 na van B240735 Fyffes yellow





38-751A 22T tube £28.0



38-122 35T VAA £22.9





1154 Pack of 4 4-wheel A tank 44290 in Esso grey 1980s

(RRP £99.80) . 1154 Single (Hel) 4F-016-031 4-whe BARGAIN. eel banana van B881931 BR bauxite Fyffes loog (



£14 £9.50

25 in LMS (Dap) NEW. -013-053 4-w



Clitheroe" (Dap) NEW. . 4F-017-024 4-wheel lime wage



grey (Hor) NEW



38-302 OTA (ex VDA) timber carrier wagon in Kronospan blue lumber load (Bac) 525.44





R6473 Pack of 3 16 ton mineral wagons in BR bauxite Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £19.99)...BARGAIN....



37-237 Pack of three 16 ton steel mineral wagons BR gre-weathered loads (Bac) £48.4
4F-020-019 Pair of 4-wheel Ale wagons 39625 and 39627 GWR





or Bullet bogie tank wagon in NACCO/ 070-0 - Weathered (Dap) NEW. . . . £28.05 allet bogie tank wagon in NACCO/ECC - 3780 7898



4F-027-010 Silver Bullet bogie tank wagon in NACCO/ ECC - 3780 7898 072-9 (Dap) NEW ... £25.50 4F-027-011 Silver Bullet bogie tank wagon in NACCO/ECC - 3780 7808 £24.61 118-0 - Weathered (Dap) NEW ... £28.05





Containers & Loads



36-004A Pack of three BD containers in Bauxite and Analogue controllers



R8012 HM2000 High output power & speed controller,

Digital control accessory decoders



R8247 DCC accessory decoder (for points and

Digital controllers

R8214 DCC Elite unit digital co



Point motors



R8243 Surface Mounted point motor (Hor)... Switches & Levers

r frame switch (for point motors) (H Lighting equipment

Accessories

NEW OOS-D2 Domestic Window frames - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc) £2.50 OOS-D3 Domestic Window frames - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc)

22.50

COS-D3 Domestic Window frames - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc)

22.50 OOS-D3 Domestic Virilizor manages
NEW
OOS-D4 Domestic Window frames - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc.)
NEW
OOS-D5 Domestic windows - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc.) NEW
2.50
OOS-D5 Domestic windows - for kit or scratch-built buildings (Anc.) NEW
2.50 OUS-DS Domestic windows - for for or scratch-fourt bullanging (Arich Net W. OOS-1011 Scherior doors - for 4 for scratch-bull buildings (Arich Net W. OOS-18 Industrial Arched window frames - for kit or scratch-bull buildings (Arich Net W. SFX10 Steam loco sound capsule (with built battery, speaker & motifications).

Model railway spares

Buildings - railways

4-0033 Brick-built two road engine shed (Bac) . . . £84.96



LK-20X Double length overall arched station roof (Pec)
SS83 Goods Yard Store Raised Floor (Yff) NEW
411 GWRU MS Joint Loading Gauge - plastic kit (Rat) NEW.
625.50 Jul : InWH-skyls station - pack of four plain boarded end panels - plastic kit (Rat) NEW.
628.61 kit (Rat) NEW.



44-0079 Grain Warehouse (Bac) £63.71 SS19 Grotty Huts x 2 and Privy (Wil) NEW £5





SL-102 Pack of 25 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Nickel Silve

SL-100 Pack of 25 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Code 100
Wooden-sleeper nickel silver flexible track (Pec).....£66
SL-100 Single (Pec).....£68





44-202 Low Relief Front Terraced Houses. (Bac). . £20.36 SL-90 Double slip - insulfrog (Pec).

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for all new releases



76CRE009 Vauxhall Cresta venetian red/polar white (Oxf



76VW027 Volkswagen VW camper van savannah beige white (Oxf) NEW



Commercial vehicles

matic 2 axle flatbed "Alan Firmin" (EFE C MkV 4 axle flatbed "FH Pratt & Co" (EFE) BARGAIN £8.50



68 . 28









Military ground vehicles



mond T Tank Transporter 21st Army Tan 76DT005 Di Public Service vehicles



SL-43 Loco Lift and storage unit (Pec)



N Gauge Steam locos





372-629 Class 2MT Ivatt 2-6-0 46460 in BR lined black £114.71 early emblem - weathered (Gra)



2S-010-002 Class 49xx 4-6-0 4914 "Cranmore Hall" in BR lined green late crest (Dap)£113 2S-010-002D Class 49xx Hall steam loco 4914 "Cranmore Hall" in BR £123



371-986 Class 64xx 0-6-0 Pannier Tank 6417 in BR Black





372-386 Class A2 4-6-2 60537 'Bachelors Butto BR Brunswick green early emblem (Gra) (RRF £169.95)BARG



372-184A Princess Coronation Class 4-6-2 46228 "Duchess 4-6-2 46228 "Duc Steam train packs



2S-011-005 Class A3 4-6-2 4472 "Flying Scotsman" in LNER apple green (as preserved) four Gresley teak LNER apple green (as preserved) four Gresley teak coaches in maroon - light bar fitted (Dap) £198.90



371-037 C in BR blue - as preserved (Gra) . £101.96



372-976A Class 24 D5031 in BR green (Gra) £101.96



371-087A Class 25/2 25225 in BR blue (Gra) £101.96



371-457 Class 37/0 D6714 in BR green small yellow panel £12 and split headcode boxes (Gra)



371-180 Class 40 D211 in BR green (Gra) .. £118.96



371-181 Class 40 D369 in BR green small yellow ... £118.96 **DMUs**



371-504 Class 101 2-car DMU in BR green small yellow

Train sets - analogue

370-130 'The Night Mail' train set Class 47 and Mk1 post



GMKS006 Class 373 Eurostar starter train set - oval of Kato track (Gau)

Coaches



374-120A BR Mark 1 RU in BR crimson & cre



Mark 1 RU in BR maroon (Gra) NEW Model railway spares

lated Rail Joiners/Fishplates for N & 009 gauge (12 per pack) (Pec). £1.70 \$L-310 Rail Joiners/Fishplates for N & OO9 gauge (24 per pack) (Pec). £2 Buildings - railways 256Ratio Large Water tower - plastic kit (Rat) NEW ... Man-made scenic structure - railwayrelated tform (Pec) NEW

Buildings - general il Depot - plastic kit (Rat) NEW . . . ump/Boiler House - plastic kit (Rat) NEW Track - Code 80 Setrack ST-11 Double straight track (Pec) ST-15 No.2 radius double curve (F ST-6 Setrack left hand point in F

ST-5 Setrack right hand point insulfrog (Pec) £8.50 Track - Code 80 Streamline SL-300 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Wooden-Sleeper Nickel Silver Flexible

sL-300 Pack of 25 (Pec)

SL-E396 Left hand medium point electrofrog (Pec) . . .



Track - Code 55 Finescale



SL-300F Pack of 30 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Finescale Nickel Silver flexible Wooden Sleeper track /Pach SL-300F Single (Pach£84



SL-E390F Finescale double slip electrofrog (Pec) £35 SL-E396F Finescale left hand medium point TUTTITI #mour! SL-E392F Finescale left hand small point THUM! SL-E395F Finescale right hand medium point

electrofrog (Pec).....

SL-E391F Finescale right hand small point electrofrog (Pec)

Railway publications 379-018 Graham Fa Commercial vehicles



ohn Mitchell (Oxf) NEW



NLRL001 Land Rover Lightweight - "United

O Gauge (1:43 Scale)

Steam locos

7S-026-002D Class 3F 'Jinty' 0-6-0T 16554 late LMS black - DCC sound £340



7S-026-005 Class 3F 'Jinty' 0-6-0T 47501 in BR black 'BRITISH RAILWAYS' lettering (Dap) £191.25



7S-026-004 Class 3F 'Jinty' 0-6-0T 47673 in BR black late



'Jinty' 0-6-0T 7480 in LMS black



Diesel locos



2591 Class 05 shunter in BR green wasp stripes (late



7D-008-011 Class 08 shunter 08173 in BR blue (without ladder) (Dap) £191.25

7D-008-008U Class 08 shunter in BR or

UK P&P £4 per order £2 per single diecast item

£7 guaranteed Next Day delivery (Orders before 2pm)





2013 Class 20 in BR blue full yellow ends; TOPS style double arrows on the bodysides and 'domino . £470



2010 Class 20 in BR green small yellow panels and 4-character headcodes (Hel) £470



2007 Class 20 in BR Railfreight grey full yellow ends, 1980s style warning flashes and headcode discs - Exclusive to Hatton's (Hel)£550



ight Red Stripe headcode 2015 Class 20 in Railf boxes (Hel)



6000 Class 60 diesel in Railfreight triple grey (Supplied un-numbered separate waterslide numbers, sector emblems and a selection of nameplates.) (Hel) (BRP £649)BARGAIN ... £390



8913 Class 128 parcels DMU M55994 in BR blue yellov



7P-004-005 GWR 59' Auto Coach in BR crimson (Dap) . £170



Wagons

Gompany" (Dap) 7F-080-027W 8-p Derbyshire Carriage and Wagon 7F-080-031 8-p



£37.75





705 Warwell wagon 50t diamond frame bogies M360333 in BR grey (Hat) £85



on 50t dian .£85



H7-WW-701 Warwell wagon 50t diamond t MS.1 in War Department (GWR) (Hat).... ond frame bogies



WW36 in War Department (LNER) (Hat)





£85



Track - Code 124 Bullhead Streamline



SL-700BH Box of 12 1 Yard O Gauge Flexible Nickel Silver Track (Bullhead Nickel Silver Rail) (Pec).....

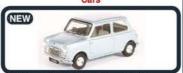




SL-E791BH Right hand point bullhead rail and



ST-U751 Setrack second radius Unifrog left hand







43R25001 Rolls Royce 25/30 - Thrupp & Maberly

Any or Multiple Scales

Analogue controllers



COMBI Combi 12v 1Amp Single Track Controller Transformer (Gau)



... £85 D Double/Twin track power controller (Gau) . . .

Analogue power supplies



M1 Transformer



Imperium1 "Imperium" 21 Pin MTC 6-function DCC decoder (Dap) NEW DCR-21PIN-Direct 21-pin 4-function 1.1Amp direct plug decoder £19.51



36-557 Pack of 5 21-pin E-Z Command 4-function 1A decoder back EMF (Bac) (RRP £109.75)BARGAIN £90 36-557 Single (Bac) £18.66



36-568 6 pin DCC decoder Back EMF and Railcom (Bac) . £24.61

DCC23 6-pin 2-function 1A (2A peak) decoder (suitable



ss Single (Hat)... ss Box of 5 (Hat)



R8249 Box of 6 8-pin 4-function 2-sided 0.5A (1A peak) decoder (Hor) R8249 Single (Hor). DCR-8PIN-Direct 8-pin compact direct 4-function 1.1Amp de 692



R8102 TTS DCC Sound Decoder 8 pin plug - Class 37 diesel (Hor)

R8110 TTS DCC Sound Decoder 8 pin plug - Class 4073 'Castle' Digital control accessory decoders DCD-ADS-8SX 8 -way accessory decoder for all Solenoids and other point motors needing momentary power (DCC). 221.50 DCD-ADS-8SX 8-way accessory decoder for solenoid motors and

Digital controllers

36-504RC Dynamis Ultima® DCC System Trial copy RailController Software (Bac)



50210 ECoS Command Station DCC V2.1 controller full colour LCD touch screen & dual controllers - 6A output (ESU) ...



524-042 NCE Power Cab 2 Amp DCC controller (NCE). . £140



Point motors

-action analogue point motor - pack of 12 (DCC) £155 low-action digital point motor * 1 (DCC) £20



DCP-CB12DIP Cobalt ip slow-action digital point motor pack of 12 (DCC). DCP-CB6DIP Cobalt ip slow-action digital point motor - pack of 6 (DCC). DCP-CB12OMG Cobalt Omega slow-action analogue point motor £165 £8.50 12 (DCC)
DCW-TMP2 Cobalt Point Motor installation kit (DCC) NEW
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of 6 (DCC) PL-10 Point Motor (Switch Machine) (Pec) PL-10 Bag of 6 (Pec)



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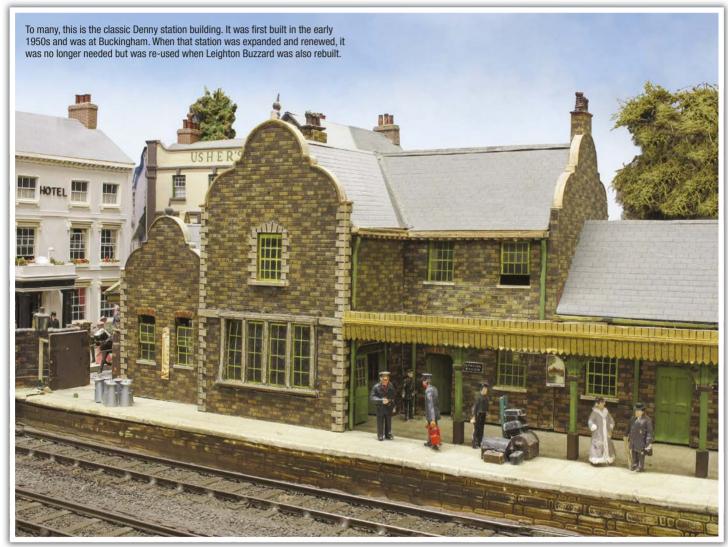




BUCKINGHAM

Tony Gee continues his tour of Peter Denny's classic layout, with a focus on the 'Leighton Buzzard Linslade' and 'Grandbrough Junction' stations.

Part two

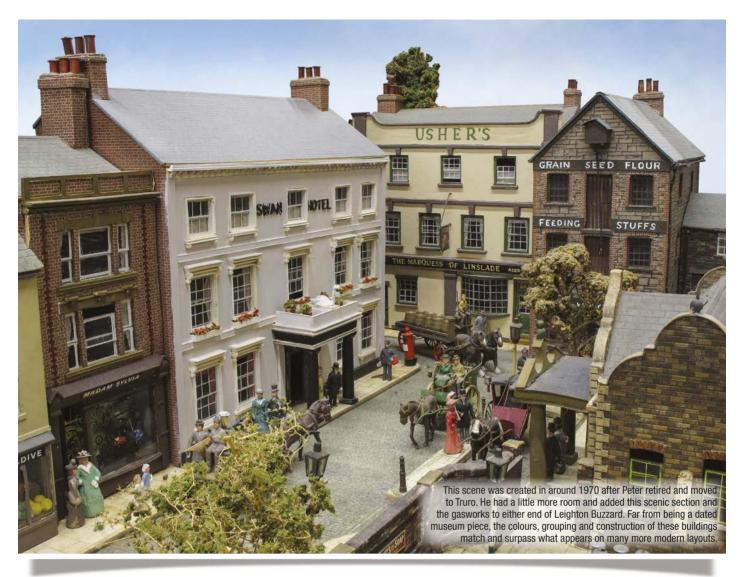


ast month's article, at least as far as the photographs were concerned, concentrated on the main terminus at 'Buckingham'. Those who studied the trackplan will have noticed two other stations, three if you include the tiny halt at 'Bourton', so this time I'll concentrate on those two, along with some of my thoughts on why this grand old layout is still relevant today.

From the earliest version of 'Buckingham' with a through station, a small branch terminus and a big terminus, Peter Denny always preferred layouts with more than one station. This was partly because two of his sons, Stephen and Crispin, were interested in the hobby and liked a station each to operate so they could send trains to each other. It was also because the real railway was like that. In reality, trains go from one place to another and perhaps stop at other places along the way. The only time 'Buckingham' was reduced to a single station was when lack of space prevented anything else - it was a terminus to a fiddle yard arrangement that Peter preferred to model.

The photographs in the March issue ended where the trains go off-scene from 'Buckingham', just beyond 'Bourton Halt' and disappear into a tunnel. The break is only a few inches but when you are operating 'Buckingham' or 'Grandborough Junction' it's not obvious because you only concentrate on your own station. At 'Grandborough', the double track emerges under a typical GCR overbridge and sweeps round a curve, under another bridge and into the station. This is one of the devices which makes the layout so effective from a scenic point of view. It is broken up into small sections by bridges and buildings at the front. The curved section

LAYOUT FOCUS



the legacy of 'Buckingham'? A well thought-out layout design and timetable can lift a simple layout to a new level of interest and enjoyment

at 'Grandborough' contains a small goods yard, a gasworks, two loading banks, plus the branch line to 'Verney Junction'. This is a short dead-end line, which goes under the scenic break and terminates.

When the second bridge is passed, the platforms and station buildings are reached. Here we see how Peter used a combination of real buildings from different locations, along with freelance ones and put them together to create a fictitious but quite believable scene. The main station building is freelance but very little of that is visible behind a typical MSLR/GCR canopy, based

on a photograph of Chesterfield. The island platform buildings don't get much of a mention in the books and article but they are typical of the GCR London Extension. The Chesterfield canopy and the London Extension buildings are from two distinct geographical areas and time periods and just would not have been seen together, but at 'Grandborough', they look as though they belong together.

It would have been much easier for Peter to put a 90 degree curve at each end and make the platform straight. It is what many a modeller does to this day. I see it all the

time at exhibitions and in magazine articles and it just shouts "toy train set" to me. However, Peter chose to make the platforms on a 21ft radius, with transition curves at each end. That was very rare in the 1950s and not common now but it makes a huge improvement to the appearance of the station.

In front of the station, there is a small marshalling yard and a locomotive depot. In Peter's mind, 'Grandborough' was rather like Verney Junction. Any significance it has is due to the railway choosing to build a junction there, rather than for the surrounding community. It has a small goods yard for the mostly agricultural traffic and a little gas works, which serves the railway community and a few nearby properties.

It's the marshalling yard that makes 'Grandborough Junction' such an interesting station to operate. Once a day, the main goods train arrives in the yard from London. Each wagon has a small coloured

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dot at the end of the solebar and each of the sidings is allocated a destination. There is one for 'Buckingham' traffic, one for 'Grandborough' and one for 'Leighton Buzzard'. The locomotive comes off the train and goes to the shed for servicing and the station pilot goes to work. The yard shunter will look at the wagons that have arrived and the wagons there and split them according to the coloured dots. Four colours go to 'Buckingham', two are for 'Grandborough' and two are for 'Leighton Buzzard'. A chart on the front of the baseboard sets out which colours go to which destination on each day and at the end of each run through the timetable, a peg is moved along to remind the operator which day they are on. Each wagon has a different colour each side and the turntable fiddle yard ensures that the wagons in the fiddle yard are turned around.

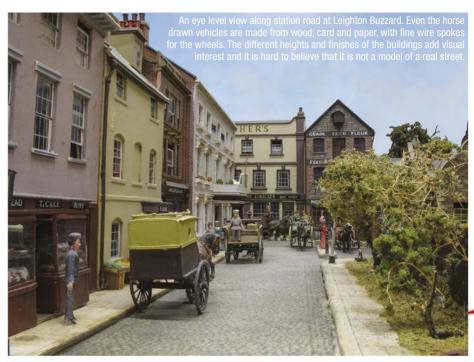
Once sorted, the main goods travels to 'Buckingham', wagons for 'Grandborough' are worked across to the goods yard and the 'Leighton Buzzard' traffic goes up the branch, or rather it will one day!

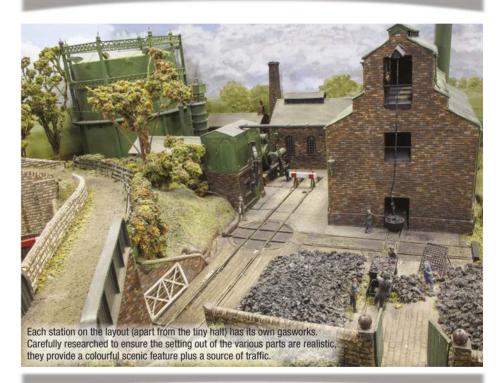
I have seen various articles on how to shunt freight trains in the modelling press over the years. Computer programs, cards, dice and all manner of things have been used, but I haven't yet seen anything that matches the simplicity, and ease of use of the Denny way. The only problem we have is that some of the colours have faded over the years, as has the colour vision of several operators. We have lively discussions about whether a wagon is red or orange, green or

All this has to happen in the gaps between passenger and other trains on the main line, although if we have extra operators, the marshalling yard can be switched to a second controller and worked independently.

Peter always wanted what he called a "proper" junction, one where the lines can be seen to split and go off to different places. He created that at 'Grandborough' where the lines split just beyond the "London" end of the platform. Two lines swing around to the right and go off to the rest of the railway system and a single track goes left and starts climbing to the smaller terminus at 'Leighton Buzzard' (Linslade).

So 'Grandborough' became a place where trains could go off in one of four directions. To 'Buckingham', 'Leighton Buzzard', 'Verney Junction' or to the rest of the railway system. After the double junction and a scenic break, which used to mark the end of the scenic





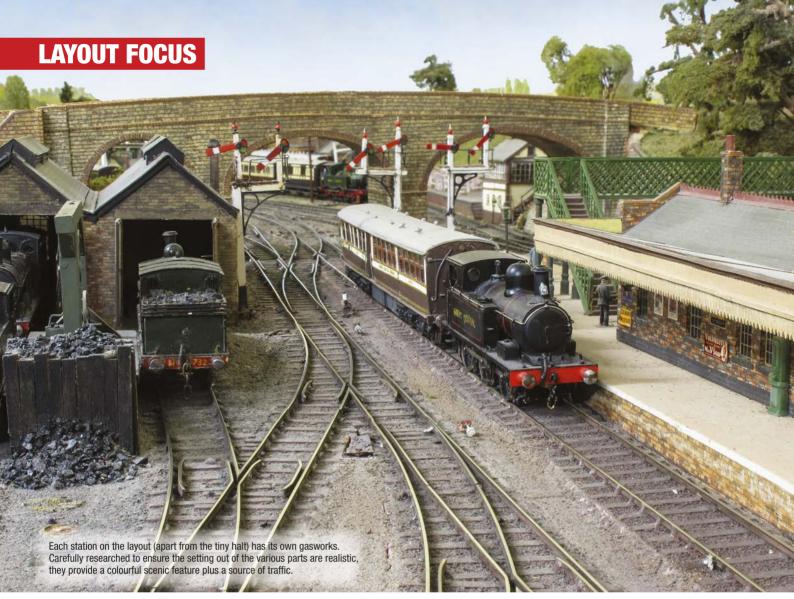
section, the tracks run through a rural scene, with the 'Leighton Buzzard' branch climbing steadily in the background. It makes it a most interesting station to operate. Or I should say, it will.

When we dismantled the layout, we found a fiddle yard under the main boards. It was the one Peter had built for the MRJ exhibition in London in 1990, which was the first time for many years he had taken a layout to a show. He took 'Leighton Buzzard' and I was one of the many who queued

outside for hours to get in. I had made the trip because I thought it would be my only chance to see part of 'Buckingham'.

I suggested to Stephen and Crispin that it might be nice to take 'Leighton Buzzard' to a few shows so that people would have chance to see at least some of their father's work.

'Leighton Buzzard' is the simplest of the stations (apart from 'Bourton Halt') and it crossed my mind that it would be the easiest to get working again. In the event, I had to do very little other than clean off many



years' worth of dust, mend a few broken solder joints and work out how to get electricity to the track. That last bit wasn't as easy as it sounds because as in 'Buckingham' and 'Grandborough', the power goes through signals and switches and there is no direct wire from the controllers to the track. Changing signals selects the controller.

It didn't take long and we exhibited the layout at Expo EM in May 2011 for the first time. Peter's sons came along and it was a lovely weekend and experience. To see quite a few middle-aged and older modellers enthusing about the old layout was quite something. When I exhibit a layout, I like to keep things running until the last paying visitor has departed. They have, after all, paid to see the layout! On this occasion, the exhibition manger came over around 30 minutes after the show had closed to politely request that the crowd round the layout should go home!

Although the present version of 'Leighton Buzzard' wasn't built until the early 1970s, in many ways it is the nearest we have to an early version of 'Buckingham'. When Peter rebuilt it into the four-platform terminus it is now, he thought about how much he had

enjoyed the earlier, much simpler versions and when he rebuilt the fiddle yard, it gave him an ideal opportunity to rebuild the layout using some of the buildings and features from the track plan of the 1950s 'Buckingham'.

The layout was later extended when more space became available and the gas works board and the street scene beyond the station were added, but the original layout was just short of 6ft long, yet contained a

station with a goods yard, a private siding, a locomotive shed and could give many hours of most enjoyable operation.

The station building dates back to the early 1950s and is one of my favourite Denny model buildings. It is full of charm and atmosphere and has some lovely fine detail. The locomotive shed and goods shed are also very early models and may date back to 1947, although there are several very similar ones on the layout and they did get





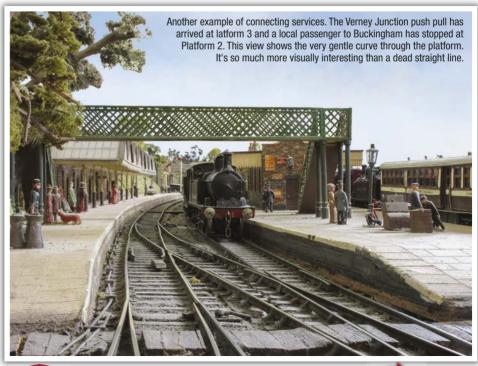
altered in detail, so it isn't easy to be 100% sure.

As on the rest of the layout, all points and signals are worked by rods and cranks with plungers and return springs taking movement across baseboard joints. The two main boards are hinged and fold together, with all the buildings fitting between each other.

We have exhibited the layout around 15 times now and each time, the reaction from visitors to the show has really made all the hard work worthwhile. Quite a few people have been able to tell Stephen and Crispin Denny, who often come along as operators, how much their father inspired their modelling and have even brought photos of their 'Denny-inspired' models along.

What really brings home to me just how much the hobby owes to Peter Denny was the recent Warley show. We were one of around 90 layouts in the show. All shapes and sizes, with something for everybody, yet people stayed watching us for sometimes an hour or more. Others came, watched, went away and came back, saying that out of all

The Leighton Buzzard branch train makes connections at Grandborough Junction with various stopping trains on the main line and one such connection is seen here. In the background, various locos and trains are held in the sidings awaiting their next jobs. The footbridge is made some 60 years from postcard, cut into strips and then coated with "Shellac". This old fashioned varnish makes the card hard wearing and long lasting.



LAYOUT FOCUS

The train seen in our opening shot is now departing for Grandborough. This represents the exhibition timetable as in the full layout version this set doesn't ever reach Leighton Buzzard. The design is shown to good effect in this view and it makes me just want to get on the controls and start shunting the next train due out, which is the goods.



What we think...



It's a testament to Peter Denny's modelling skills that Buckingham Branch still stands as one of the landmark layouts of the hobby - it's probably our most elaborate trackplan too! It's fabulous that Tony has been able

to restore the Leighton Buzzard section, which you can see at our Alexandra Palace show on March 24-25, and fingers crossed that he's able to bring the rest of it back to working order in the not too distant future.

the layouts there, 'Leighton Buzzard' was the one they enjoyed watching most.

The standard of modelling may have improved over the years, certainly in the ready-to-run department. The standard of operation hasn't changed in the 40 years I have been attending shows. When we go to shows with the layout, we get totally engrossed in operation, to a simple sequence of 16 moves, which take about an hour to complete. The day flies by and I have never yet found myself bored or stale. People watching seem to be engrossed too.

If you'd like to see what I mean, please come along to Alexandra Palace on March 24 and 25 where we'll be exhibiting 'Leighton Buzzard' to celebrate the 70th

anniversary of Peter Denny first showing 'Buckingham' at the Model Railway Club annual show. Some of the models on display were at the show 70 years ago. If all goes to plan, we'll have Stephen and Crispin Denny with us as operators and I'm really looking forward to it.

Leighton Buzzard
is at
The London Festival of
Pailway Modelling - see
Orld-of-railways as



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You Tube



Tony Gee talks us through the whole of Peter Denny's **Buckingham Geat Central layout**



AUTOMATIC CRISPIN

One item I have only briefly mentioned is the 'Automatic Crispin'. This wonderful electro-mechanical computer is presently awaiting restoration to working order. I have seen it working and it is simply an amazing machine.

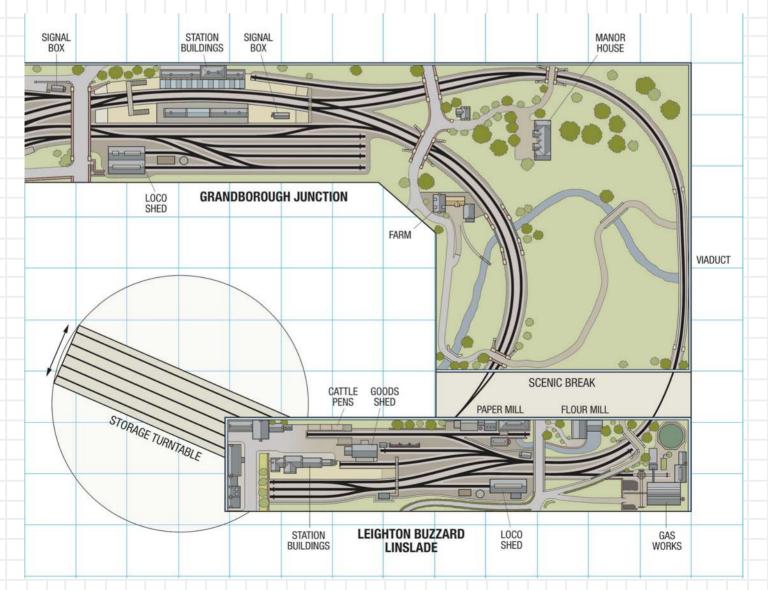
It has three main parts. A clock that runs faster than real time (a Buckingham minute passes in around 40 seconds) also sends impulses to a pair of rollers, which have the timetable on an acetate type roll.

Holes in the roll allow wipers to make various contacts that drive a big wooden disk. This rings block bells at either Grandborough or Buckingham, sets the correct points in the fiddle yard and puts the power from the controller to the right track. This allows the operator to either send or receive a train in or out of the fiddle yard. So the layout operators can carry on, knowing that they need to do nothing in the fiddle yard, apart from to turn it round a few times.

The plan is to get it all going again one day and there is a possibility that I may have some help with this from Stephen Denny, who designed it, so watch this space!



BUCKINGHAM





BUILD ARESIN • Fibreglass brush • Grey primer • Selection of paints • GOODS SHED KIT

Resin kits offer an easy route into making things, providing you observe basic principles, as Paul Bason proves with this example from Skytrex.

If you've never attempted to build a resin kit before you may be interested to see how they go together. This goods shed is one of a large selection of 7mm:1ft scale kits that originally formed the NMB range from Skytrex.

You shouldn't find much difficulty in putting together resin parts, but there are a few things to remember. Firstly, resin parts are much more brittle than plastic, they are less forgiving when bent and they can crack if you are not careful. Secondly, due to the moulding process a little more cleaning up and preparation is needed prior to assembly, and the casting process can leave some parts a little distorted. Finally, the adhesives used are possibly not quite as simple to work with as for plastic.

If you find distortion in any of the resin parts Skytrex recommends to simply boil a kettle and carefully pour a little boiling water over the affected area. Once the resin has softened, the part can be readily manipulated into its original shape.

Rapid drying epoxy resin and superglue are recommended for resin kits like these. I have experimented with both options and I have found that the two-part epoxy such as Araldite Rapid is best suited to the larger joints. For example, in the corners of the buildings where it is sometimes beneficial to be able to move the parts around to ensure that everything is perfectly aligned. In contrast, superglue is probably best suited to fixing smaller parts such as doors and windows.



Two wall/end sub-assemblies are joined to form the main structure. An engineer's square is ideal for fixing the sides at right angles.



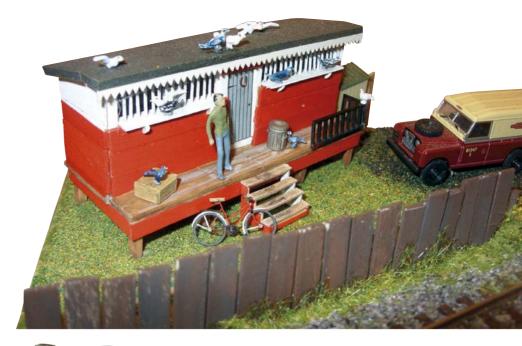


Entry Name: Pigeon Loft Modeller: Brvce Fulton

can be achieved."

Scale: 4mm

I have always admired small dioramas. Your Cake Box Challenge set clear boundaries, so I decided to have a go. My father and brother had racing pigeons and their first loft was on British Rail land near Petteril Bridge Junction in Carlisle. None of the commercial lofts looked good, so I scratch-built my own using wooden tea stirrers, matchsticks and very fine emery paper for the roof. Inside the loft there are more pigeons and nest boxes. I painted the birds from Langley and the bicycle is from modelrailwayscenery. com. The wooden fence is from Peco.







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Q&A LETTERS PROJECTS

IN THE BLOOD

I'm George, a 7-year-old model railway builder. My great grandfather was an engineer who built model locomotives in his spare time, and my grandfather was a draughtsman and made all sorts of things. I think engineering and trains seem to run in my blood.

I began building railways and layouts as soon as I could join two pieces of Brio, and I've been building bigger and better layouts since. I made my first model railway just over a year ago.

When I was 6, my parents let me take the dining table apart and replace it with a huge layout. I was then given a Flying Scotsman layout set to build, and my dream layout began. Some of the things in my layout were kits, like the windmill my little sister helped make, and others I got for Christmas like my Yew Tree Cottage.

Using **BRM** magazine, I've learnt how to set out my layout, and pin down my track, and how to put together buildings and create ones of my own. Being only 7 years old, my feet seem to keep growing, which provided me with a shoe box to design and build my engine shed.

I really enjoy researching engineering techniques, and I have a big tool box with all my equipment in. I like using pincers and tweezers to do really small things like sticking bits together, and I love being

praise, grumbles, projects, layouts and your thoughts on the hobby then and now.

Your forum for sharing information, questions,



free to paint things whatever colour or pattern I like. I have just finished making a booking hall, which took me a whole weekend.

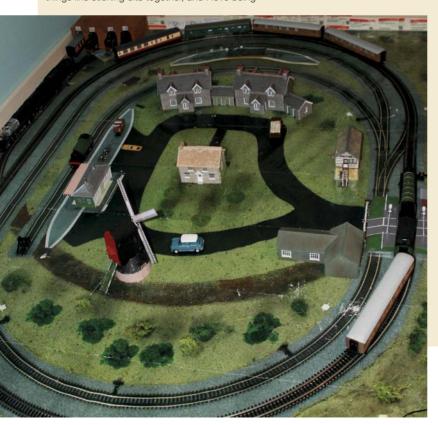
I enjoy having a Flying Scotsman locomotive to run and after subscribing to **BRM** at The National Festival of Railway Modelling this year, I received a Kelly & Son Paper mill locomotive. I have picked up carriages from charity shops and repaired them, and I am always making plans and designing new elements to go on my layout.

I am now saving up to get more buildings and people. I'd also like to start making some scenery, like grass and trees. Wish me luck!

George Long 71/2

Howard 283/4

Well done George, keep up your efforts, I hope you can make some use of the model railway items on their way to you in the post.



BETTER OFF?

Having recently returned to railway modelling after an absence of 40 years, I find I've some interesting observations. From what I remember from my youth the catalogues of the main suppliers changed little with occasional new models being introduced annually and the levels of technology progressed at a pace that was easy to accommodate. Nowadays, not only does technology advance at quite an alarming rate for us to comprehend but in a manner which seems to be specifically designed to introduce obsolescence.

From what I can see, new models are being introduced at an unbelievable rate, with quite often one supplier trying to outdo another in the race to see the latest idea on the shelves first. I think that suppliers are manipulating the markets to generate the demand. Last year a number of suppliers simultaneously introduced varying configurations of 'Warflat' wagons. They were available in a multitude of eras, types and configurations with some suppliers even offering multiple packs. Having thought about the particular ones I wanted to consider purchasing, I approached the particular manufacturer only to find that they were already out of stock less than four months since their introduction.

One of the hobby's main attractions used to be the pace of it, offering a more relaxed environment to model and enjoy putting together a layout. Now it seems to have developed into a race to get your hands on the latest item before it becomes unavailable. I really don't think we're better off for it. My layout won't have the Warflats I wanted. Does anyone want to buy some 1:76 scale Shermans?

Richard Simpson

Do you agree or disagree with Mr. Simpson? Sent your letters to brm@warnersgroup.co.uk





JUNIOR MEMBER



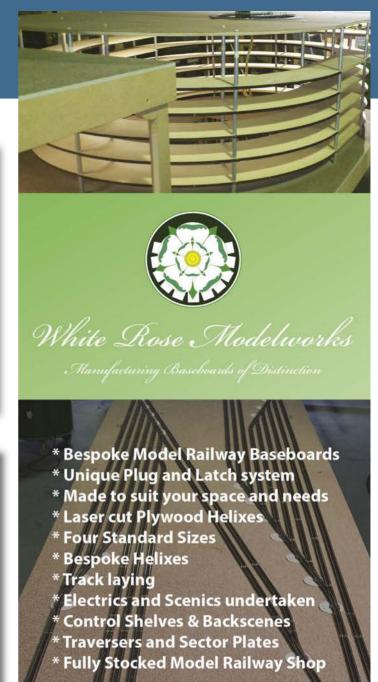


Hi BRM, my name is Hamish and I'm 13 years old. I've been building my model railway for just under a year and I love it. I'm in the Yeovil model railway group and go there every Wednesday. All my layout has been done entirely by me and I find it a lot of fun. I enjoy BRM DVDs and watch them every month. My layout isn't based on anywhere in particular and is run using DC.

Hamish Barry

PLEA FOR HELP

The Model Fest club is seeking a suitable home in the Littlehampton Rustington or Arundel area to house the activities of its growing membership. Model Fest Club has around 20 members with meetings twice a month in member's homes. Space is running out and the club would like to find a permanent base or piece of land on which to site a structure to hold frequent meetings. The club has been running in various guises for the last 15 years and most of its members are from West Sussex. If you can help or know someone who might have suitable premises please contact: Richard Rundle, Chairperson gardenofenglandmodelfest@gmail.com or telephone 01243 261641



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Tony Wright has helpful advice for adding detail and interest to your empty carriage interiors.

n my days as a professional model-maker, I fought shy of making carriages because - without being mercenary - I could never charge as much when compared with a locomotive. Though carriages don't have to work in the same way as a locomotive, there is much fiddly work needed to complete them, particularly with regard to the interiors.

Interiors are often neglected or omitted and I hope to show some simple methods of recreating them. I'm certainly not in the modelling school of 'everything must be there', but something should be there, even if only to create an impression.

Modellers of the contemporary scene have it slightly easier, representing rows of aircraft-style seating, the only difference being one of class. For the period I'm showing, one has to consider how many seats were on each side (fewer in catering cars), what bar counters might have been like and the colour of the curtains. With universal no-smoking on trains now, the little red triangles aren't necessary, but they're needed on the inside of the carriages I'm describing, as are the 1st Class 'sausages'.

One thing that should be mentioned with regard to installing carriage interiors concerns future accessibility. No matter how

good adhesives are, in time some will fail, resulting in seats, tables, passengers, grab rails and glazing rattling around in a most annoying manner. Always ensure that you can get inside your carriages afterwards, should the need arise. Two main types of separation are shown - splitting at the roof or splitting at the solebar.

Ratio

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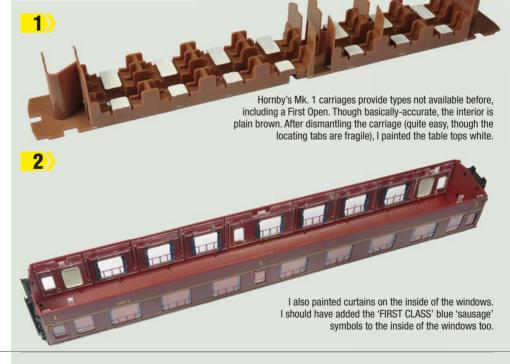
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The white table tops show well and add a nice touch, as do the curtains. Modellers' Mecca concertina gangways complete the carriage. The horrid tension-lock couplings were discarded and replaced with my own make, pulling off the headstocks, not the bogies.



I made a Tourist Buffet Car from some test etchings which were given to me (sadly, not to be produced). The 'Plastikard' floor for the interior is shown, with two apertures to accommodate the bogie pivots. I used MJT bogies.



Interior seats for an MJT Gresley Corridor Third were cut to length at the same time (I usually build several cars together). These came from lan Kirk seat strips.



For open cars, I use Southern Pride's plastic seats, fixed with Slater's Mek Pak.



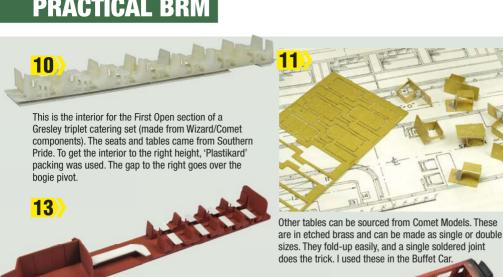
Kit-built cars will usually require an interior. I make mine from various thicknesses of Slater's 'Plastikard'. Cutting this most-useful material was achieved using a Stanley knife and a safety rule – the latter essential.



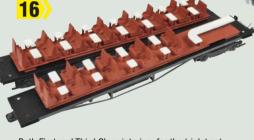
Dimensions were taken directly from accurate drawings – in this case by Nick Campling. Bulkheads and seat/ table positions were marked using an engineer's small square.



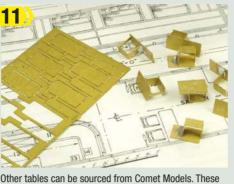
PRACTICAL BRM



This is the interior for the Buffet Car, ready for installation. Because the kitchen windows are white, there's no need to make an interior for that section.



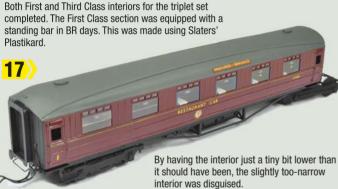
The body and floor pan for the Third Open section of the catering triplet. Because these cars separate from the underframe at the base of the body, there is a lip to be accommodated



Halfords red acrylic primer was used to base-paint the interiors, the table tops then being picked-out in white using Humbrol enamel paint.



This means that the interior floor cannot be made fullwidth, with seats and tables moved in by the width of the lip both sides.



I'm certainly not in the modelling school of 'everything must be there', including knives and forks on tables and a bar of soap by the wash basin



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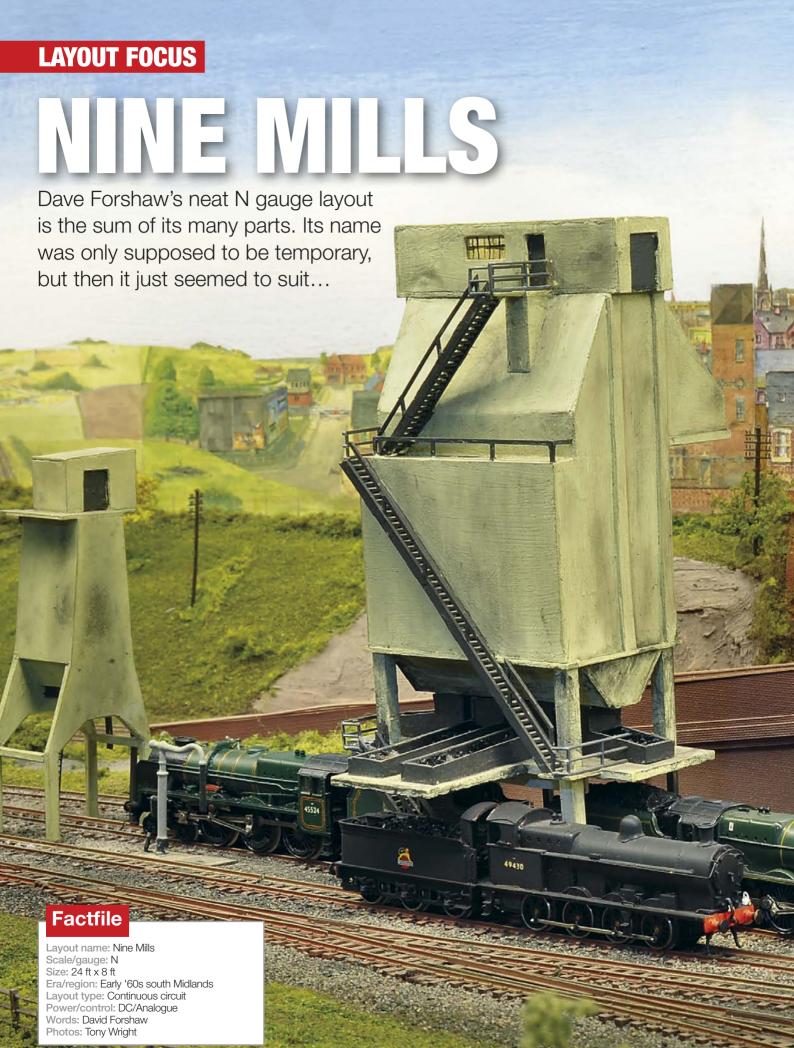
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Nine Mills is not exactly an original name for a nine millimetre N gauge layout. It was intended as a temporary project name during construction, but then we didn't want to change it

ine Mills is a fictitious MPD located in the south Midlands, where the LMS and GWR both had depots. By the early 1960s the Midland shed has been replaced by a new diesel servicing facility. The GWR shed remains in use, but the steam locos continue to use the ex-LMS coaling & ash plant.

Behind the depot runs a cross country main line, running a wide range of local and long distance inter regional passenger services. The line also sees extensive freight workings, often pausing nearby in the passing loops. The engineers department has taken over some of the rationalised sidings, due to declining traffic, but the brewery remains rail served.

The name, Nine Mills is not exactly an original name for a nine millimetre N gauge layout. It was intended as a temporary project name during construction, but then we didn't want to change it.

How we built it

All the scenic boards are open framed, of plywood or MDF (not my preference but we got a load for free!). The ends where the boards bolt together are 12mm. Bracing and legs are made from 2" x 1" softwood, making a reasonably light structure that has landscape both above and below the track level. This creates a visually appealing three dimensional layout, as some buildings are completely below track level.

Captive T-prong nuts with 6mm bolts join the baseboards together, secure the leg braces and hold the protective end panels during transportation. Alignment dowels are fitted to all joining baseboards and height adjusting feet are fitted to the legs. The track is always set dead flat with a spirit level, which makes for smoother running.

The scenic structure is polystyrene and fixed with solvent free 'no more nails' type adhesive. This was covered with plaster mixed with brown powder paint and plenty of PVA added. Ground cover is mainly Woodland Scenics and ballast from Green

Scene, both applied with the traditional techniques. Buildings are a varied collection from old low relief card kits.

All the scenic track work is Peco fine scale code 55 and code 80 in the fiddle yard. All points are electofrog operated by Peco motors with miniature DPDT slide switches underneath. The layout is wired for analogue control and 6 'cabs', using rotary switches. The fiddle yard uses a pair of diode matrixes for route setting, so a single button will operate up to 8 points. Two aspect colour light signals were added a few years ago, using parts from CR Signals and scratchbuilt gantries. Operation is automatic using Heathcote Electronics equipment with infra red detectors.

Steam Locomotives

Steam locos, old and new, normally get at least the addition of lamps, brake pipes and real coal, and maybe some weathering.

Whilst many locos have Farish origins, we still run a number of Minitrix locos – mainly Britannia and 9F for their great haulage ability on trains of heavy kit-built coaches and wagons. Once shortened, fitted with etched brass parts, and repainted they still look okay alongside the modern offerings.

The new generation of locos from Farish and Dapol are excellent, but it is also worth mentioning the range from Union Mills. Whilst not having the level of detail we now see from Farish and Dapol, these are also great locos for heavy haulage. Trains with heavy loads (like cast metal army tanks) or older less free running wagons are often pulled by Union Mills Fowler 3Fs or 7Fs, both the LNWR G2 Super D and Fowler versions. The 2P, B12 and Prince of Wales are good for the kit built coaches with a high white metal content. Likewise, the Peco Jubilees don't really show their 40 year old tooling, once detailed. One Jubilee is attached to a Union Mills Fowler tender, after the original eventually failed after many years of service.

From the newer generation of locos, there

LAYOUT FOCUS

The steam shed is several Ratio kits joined together. On shed are a Farish A1. Minitrix 9F with Crosti conversion and Farish Standard 2-6-4T.



is the Dapol Ivatt 2-6-2T, Q1, Schools, A3, A4, B17, Britannia and 9F along with Farish Ivatt Mogul, Jinty, Fowler 4F, Fairburn 2-6-4 T, Black 5s, Jubilees, Royal Scots, Duchesses, B1, A1, A2, J39, V2, Merchant Navy, N15, Standard 4 Moguls, Standard 2-6-4 T, Standard Class 5 and Austerity 2-8-0.

Diesel Locomotives

It is appropriate for the period we are modelling to describe these according to the original British Railways power classification categories, and I have added their TOPS codes - if they survived that long.

- Shunters 204hp (Class 03 and Class 04), 350hp (Class 08). All of these are from the new generation of Farish models.
- Type 1 There are a couple of elderly white metal and resin kits of a British Thomson Houston (Class 15), and North British (Class 16), and several Farish English Electric Type 1s (Class 20s) - new versions.
- Type 2 The English Electric 'Baby Deltic' (Class 23) is from a Silver Fox kit on Class 20 chassis. BR (Class 24) are now the recent Farish version. Several BR (Class 25/3) are Farish including one backdated to the original 25/1 version with BH Enterprises etched overlay sides, as well as the new Farish version. Birmingham RCW

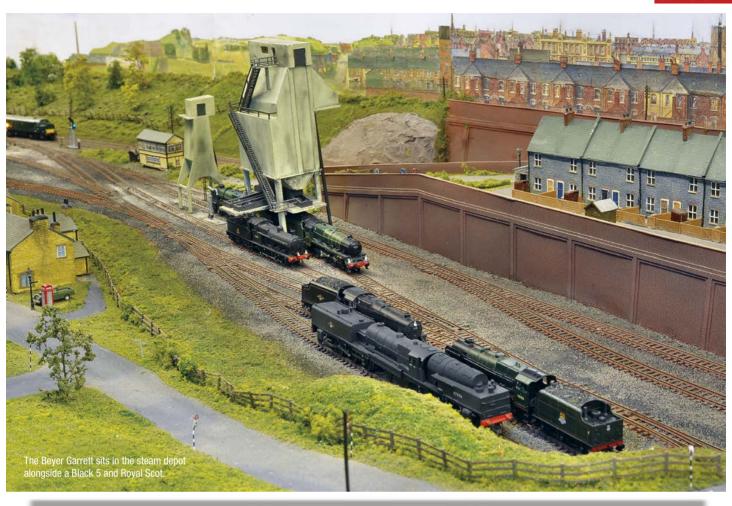
(Class 26) is represented by the new Dapol model and Taylor kit (Class 33 chassis). Birmingham RCW (Class 27) is another Silver Fox kit on a Class 33 chassis or Dapol, Brush A1A-A1A (Class 31) is Farish and finally the Metropolitan Vickers 'Co-Bo's (Class 28) are etched brass Ian Stoate kits running on Class 31 chassis with one bogie removed and replaced by a 'Bo' bogie from a Class 20.

- Type 3 English Electric (Class 37) with several of the new version in use, all the old original tooling ones have now been retired. Beyer Peacock 'Hymek' (Class 35) is the Dapol model.
- Type 4 English Electric (Class 40) is represented with a range of old and new Farish models covering the head code flap, split head code box and centre head code box versions. BR 'Warship' (Class 42) and

BR 'Peak' (Class 44, 45 and 46) are all Farish models. BR Brush (Class 47) features old and new tooling versions with some repaints.

- Type 5 Deltic (Class 55) is a Farish model, rarely seen as these didn't stray from the ECML in the early days.
- Protoypes LMS 10000 is a Knightwing kit on a Class 37 chassis, Falcon is a BH Enterprises overlay for a stretched Class 47 body on a Class 50 chassis. Lion is a Britannia Pacific resin body on a Class 47, DP2 started life as a production Deltic with etched grilles and bits from a Class 50 grafted into the roof and sides. DP1 'Deltic' is the Farish model and *Kestrel* is another BH kit that starts with a Class 47. I should point out that several of the kits mentioned are from manufacturers that have ceased trading. The lesson seems to be that if you like something, then buy it while you can.

several of the kits mentioned are from manufacturers that have ceased trading. The lesson seems to be that if you like something, then buy it while you can



Multiple Units

For a long time the only RTR first generation DMU model was the Farish Metro Cammell Class 101, whilst the original model still in the fleet, the excellent new replacement means it will be rarely seen. The Derby Class 108 makes an appearance in several guises. BH Enterprises' kit-built BRCW Class 104 and Swindon Inter City Class 123 can also be seen. The Class 104 now uses a Farish Class 108 chassis, and the Class 123 a shortened Farish Class 158 later type split frame chassis. The Class 124 Trans Pennine set uses etched sides from Worsley Works, body shell parts from BH Enterprises, modified resin driving cabs from a Class 310 EMU kit (N Train/Electra) and powered by another shortened Class 158 chassis. The Class 105 Cravens is based on the old Farish Class 101 body with N-Train cab ends and Electra Graphics printed sides, again running on a new generation chassis. The final DMU in use is the excellent Farish Blue Pullman.

Coaches

There is also a lot of ex LMS Stanier stock on the layout. The first kits I built were old Cavendish, which were later taken over and much improved by Ultima Models. The early kits have been recycled into other Stanier coach variants using the original aluminium floor and roof sections, but adding new white metal ends and under frame details from Etched Pixels. I have used blood & custard sides to build 50ft full brakes and kitchen cars, 65ft sleeping cars and dining cars and 69ft 12 wheel dining cars as well as 57, 60 and 62ft coaches from the original kits.

Wagons

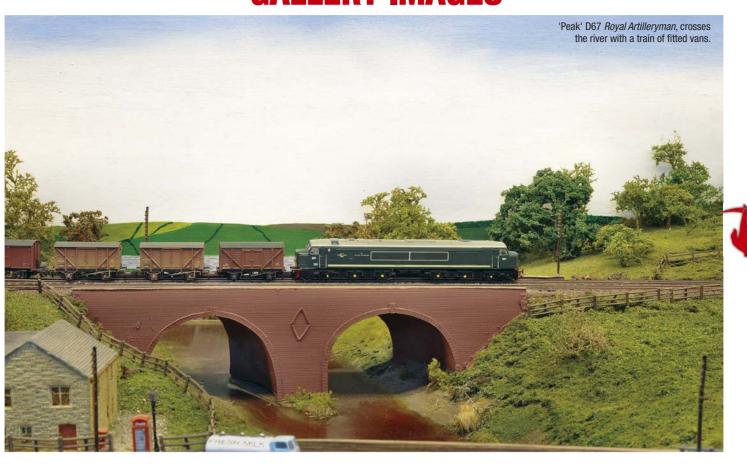
This is where we have the greatest variety, with 30 year old PECO wagons, the latest Farish & Dapol releases, and a large number of kits from the N Gauge Society, Parkwood Models, Parkside Dundas, Fleetline, Foxhunter, Chivers, to name a few. Many trains are made up with a mix of vehicles. The 'Condor' train uses Parkwood, Peco, Farish and Skytrex containers, while the breakdown train has a 45tonne Fleetline crane together with Peco barrier wagons, Ultima Stanier BG, Lima Siphon G as a tool van, and Farish brake vans.

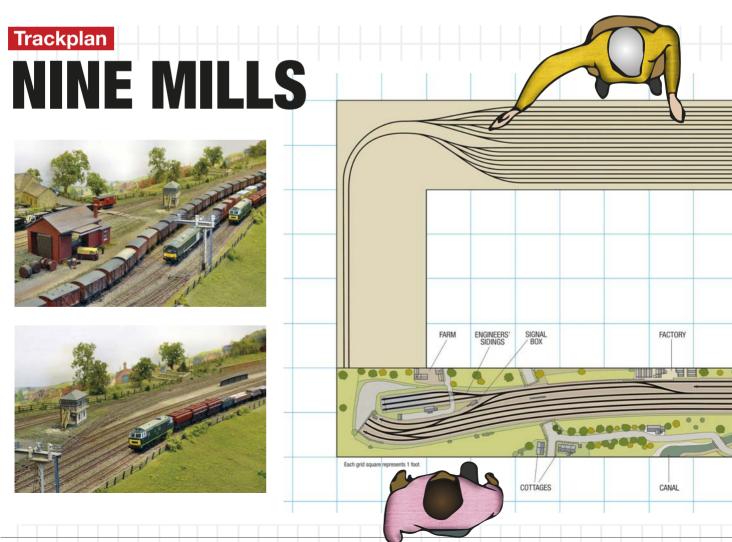
The Future

I have a replacement layout on the drawing board, with planning now well advanced. This is project is to create most of Preston station and the junction area just south, creating an almost 'opposite' layout to Nine Mills. This will be a larger layout with an initial length of 24ft and a scenic depth of 3ft. In the meantime, Nine Mills continues to evolve with tweaks to allow it also operate as a BR Sector period layout, circa 1990. This means removable catenary to allow WCML electric trains to run. While it continues to be a popular exhibit, Nine Mills will continue to develop, proving the myth (fact?) that a layout is never finished! ■



LAYOUT FOCUS CLICK AND SWIPE FOR MORE GALLERY IMAGES





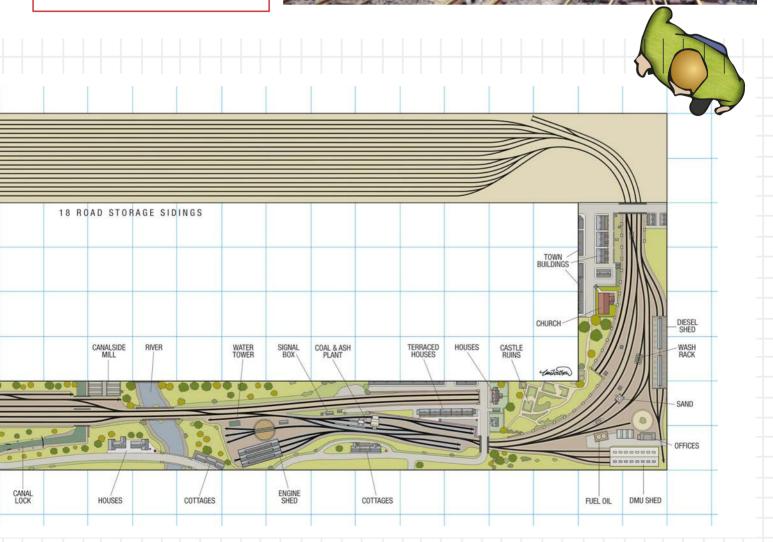
Meet the modeller

The steam-diesel transition period is something I fell into, based on the first few locos I bought as an 11 year old. I still recall trading in my bits of Triang and Hornby 00 at Hatton's original shop. I moved to N gauge so I could fit a layout under my bed, and

I have never looked back. As a Lancashire lad it had to be the LMS that inspired me, especially the Stanier locomotives. I am more open minded these days, happily running BR standard and ex-LNER models. Spending much of my adult life in Sussex even means the Southern gets a look in! This choice has proved to be a sound decision, as it seems to be the most widely modelled, and well supported by the trade.

I have always been a club modeller, joining different groups, building and exhibiting layouts as work took me around the country. Presently I am a member of the Liverpool Model Railway Society and the West Lancashire O gauge group. A few years ago I decided to dabble in O gauge, inspired by the presence of the models, enhanced by sound and smoke effects, enabled by DCC control. I have quite a bit of stock now, but my own layout is still somewhere in the future.

The coaling tower and ash plant were scratch built for me by a school friend based on those at Carnforth, which are still standing. He was working there at the time, so could climb over it and do measurements.





Phil Parker makes a fiddle yard for 'Didsbury Green' that needs no woodworking tools.

he first question most people will be asking is, "What is a stick fiddle yard?" The answer is that it's the simplest form of fiddle yard that you can build for any layout. A single line of track on a shelf sticking out from the end of the scenic baseboard.

Micro layouts rarely need anything more sophisticated or complicated than the ability to drive a train off-stage, so it appears to go somewhere. Once away from the scenic section, the operator can re-marshal or swap over the rolling stock at his or her leisure.

On a normal layout, having several trains lined up and ready to go allows the operating session to progress rapidly. The passenger train can follow the goods as soon as the last vehicle has cleared the tunnel. It's not realistic, on the prototype there is always a delay while the departing train gets well clear of the incoming, but on a model if there's nothing moving for a few seconds, visitors have been known to get agitated and

start grumbling about lack of movement.

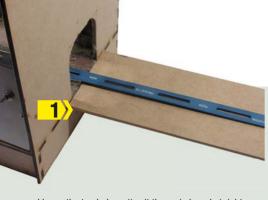
Micro layouts are often more about building than operation and since very few of us enjoy making a fiddle yard as much as we do the scenic features, the less time a yard takes the better.

I've mentioned before that my woodworking skills are very limited. I can cut the stuff, but rarely in a straight line. Because of this, I'm using thin MDF for the job. The fact the baseboard is made of the same material only makes the decision more sensible, but I'd use it even on a conventional plywood board. No woodworking tools are required. 2mm thick MDF, bought from a local DIY store, can be cut with a heavy craft knife. It's too thin to use nails, so glued construction is the order of the day too.

Bearing in mind this thing has to be shipped on an aeroplane, I'm using plastic bolts. Not much of a weight saving, but everything counts. You can buy these from your local motoring shop designed for fitting car number plates, or head online like I did and pick up 20 for less than £4.00. I'm sure I'll find use for the others.

Electrical connections demand nothing more than a 2-pin plug. You could even use an electrical chocolate block. It's not like doing up the screws will take very long. Best of all, the fiddle yard can double as a short test track or even DCC programming track when not attached to the layout.

micro layouts rarely need anything more sophisticated or complicated than the ability to drive a train offstage, so it appears to go somewhere



I know the track doesn't exit the main board at right angles, so using a Tracksetta tool gives a guide to the width the fiddle yard needs to be if the line stays straight from the scenic section to the end of the yard. It's a guess as I plan to leave plenty of space around the edge.



Plastic bolts designed for car number plates are used to ioin the baseboards. I stick the nuts in place with epoxy resin inside the main board. It's one less thing to get lost and it certainly makes assembling the layout quick and



magazines will work perfectly well for this.

A different design of stick fiddle yard in use on one of my other layouts ('The Melbridge Box Company' - **BRM** April 2017). I've used the same MDF but the fixing bolts have to be above the baseboard as there isn't anything underneath. In this case they also transfer electricity, although this wasn't especially successful as soldering to the metal bolts didn't work as well as I'd have liked

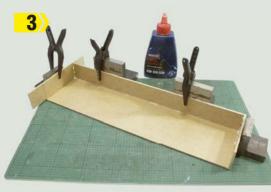




Using a steel rule and heavy craft knife, the MDF is cut to size. Don't try to go through in one go, as you'll push too hard, lose control and cut yourself as well as making a wobbly edge. I find at least half a dozen passes are required. The material blunts the blade quickly too so a snap-off knife is a good idea.



The track is now fitted using the Tracksetta again to ensure a straight run. Since the board is too thin for track pins, I'm using superglue to hold it down. I didn't get the alignment set up perfectly, so a very thin piece of plastic packing makes up the difference.



40mm deep strips are stuck under the bottom of the board top. I'll laminate some taller ones around the outside to provide a thicker wall and more importantly, a lip around the edge to stop rolling stock rolling off. Ordinary woodworking glue is perfect for this.



Underneath you can see the wiring using a coaxial plug and socket from the audio section of Maplin electrical store, but any 2-pin plug and socket will work. The captive nuts are also seen.

Expert Advice





Holding things square

Some of the most useful tools I own are the simplest. Cast iron angles from Squires Tools (www.squirestools.com) can be used to keep things at right angles. Clamps or magnets hold parts hard against the angle.

For assembling buildings, larger items of rolling stock and even baseboards, I wonder how I managed without them. If all else fails, they make excellent weights at 455 and 1055g just don't drop them on your foot.



3D printing offers a world of railway possibilities. Steven Da Costa describes the materials and procedures of use to railway modellers.

D printing, sometimes referred to as Rapid Prototyping, is a process where a three dimensional object is grown, layer by layer, from a computergenerated file. 3D printing is an additive manufacturing process, which means that material is added to the object rather than removed as per traditional milling and turning processes.

There are many different processes that fall into the 3D printing category; far too many to adequately describe in this article. Whatever the process, all 3D printers require the model to be built in layers and it is these layers that create the distinctive 'stepping' effect inherent to 3D prints. As a rule of thumb, the thinner the layers and the finer the material deposited, the better the quality of the raw print. However, this is not an exact science, as some printing processes will produce finer/smoother prints despite the fact that, on paper at least, they have

lesser specifications than another type of machine.

3D printing seems to be misunderstood and frowned upon by many modellers. I believe that this is largely due to the wrong materials and/or processes being used, or not knowing the best techniques to clean up a print. There are many 3D printers available on the market that seem attractive due to their low price. Most of these machines are incapable of producing a high quality product; Generally speaking, anything that prints in layers thicker than 50 microns is not likely to be suitable for fine modelling work. Luckily there a several companies that offer 3D printing services at reasonable prices. Some even enable designers to sell their work to customers, thus removing the need to have to learn Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills.

Shapeways has offices in Europe and the USA that offer 3D printing services using a variety of different machines and materials, and the company works with designers to allow them sell their work via their own 'shops' on the site. Shapeways handles the manufacturing, quality control, shipping and customer service and the designer receives a mark-up for any items they sell.

Shapeways also offers a varied choice of materials for designers to work with, but not all of the designs uploaded will be able to be printed in all of the materials. In any case, not all the materials would be best suited to a particular design.

I have preferences for certain materials that give a good level of detail and can be cleaned up relatively easily. Some of Shapeways' most commonly used materials for railway modelling include:

Next time
you've bought your
first 3D print, but here's
how to turn it into a brilliaut wodel



Strong White and Flexible (SWF) can give a good basic shape but the surface is very rough and not as detailed compared to finer materials. The coach body at the back has been polished by Shapeways using a tumbler which, while successfully making the surface much smoother, has had the effect of removing much of the detail and will still require some filling due to its porous nature.

Frosted Detail Materials:

Examples of locomotive bodies printed in the Frosted Ultra (FUD) and Frosted Extreme Detail (FXD) materials. The LMS 2P (front) and LNER V1 (middle) have been printed in FXD while the V3 (back) has been printed in FUD. While difficult to photograph in their translucent raw state, you can see that the prints are reasonably smooth as supplied but still benefit from rubbing down to get the best results.

Shapeways offers this material in two forms - Frosted Ultra Detail (FUD) and Frosted Extreme Detail (FXD).

Both these are printed in an acrylic resin using multijet technology (similar to an inkjet printer); the only difference is the thickness of the layers and the price. Frosted Ultra Detail is printed in layers around 30 microns thick, while Frosted Extreme Detail refines this to 16 microns. Therefore Frosted Extreme Detail takes longer to print than Frosted Ultra Detail, hence the higher price. Both these materials can produce details as small as 0.1mm in height and width. While capable of printing thinner cross sections, this material is more brittle than Strong White and Flexible.

During the printing process, any overhanging areas must be supported with a wax material that is subsequently melted away. This does react with the acrylic resin used, which makes the surface slightly rougher where it was in contact with the wax. Any residual wax will need to be cleaned from the model before painting, as it will rise through the paint over time and give the model a sparkly effect!

Strong White and Flexible:

This material is made of microscopic nylon particles that are sintered together using a laser; a process known a Selective Laser Sintering or SLS. The 3D objects are built in a box that is gradually filled with these particles allowing the unused areas to support the model as it is built. The resulting 3D prints are quite strong and have a good degree of flexibility, but they are porous in nature. The printer can produce details as fine as 0.2mm in height and width: although they are not as crisp as some other materials. This is one of the cheapest materials Shapeways offers and can be supplied in several colours other than white.

Due to the nature of this process, the prints will have a grainy look and feel. Shapeways offers a polishing service. but this can polish away detail so is of limited use. It is better to sand/polish the prints by hand, but the porous and flexible nature of the material does make this a little

I find that this material's use in N gauge is limited to parts that require a good degree of strength and flexibility, but where surface detail is unimportant. With work, it can be used to produce an acceptable finish in the larger scales. In fact I have seen some nice 4mm and 7mm models printed in this material, including the chassis!

scale modes - 7mm or larger may prove to be cost prohibitive. (back) has been printed in FUD. While difficult to photograph in their translucent raw

Examples of locomotive bodies printed in the Frosted Ultra (FUD) and Frosted Extreme Detail (FXD) materials. The LMS 2P (front) and LNER V1 (middle) have been printed in FXD while the V3

state, you can see that the prints are reasonably smooth as supplied but still benefit from rubbing down to get the best results.

> This Gresley non-corridor third coach body has been printed in High Definition Acrylate (HDA). While the black resin shows the print lines more prominently, the model is almost as smooth as a FUD/FXD print. However, this model suffered from bowing along the bottom edges and, as a result, I will print the next revision in either FUD or FXD.

the same resin as the model. This requires the supports to be removed once the 3D print is complete. Fortunately, Shapeways will do this for the modeller, but some evidence of these will remain and have to be carefully removed

While the layers are thicker than either of the Frosted Detail materials, SLA usually produces smoother finishes than the other 3D printing processes. However, High Definition Acrylate does seem to have a greater tendency to warp than the other materials. As such, I would suggest that this material is best suited to figures or well-braced models

of each layer, the build plate on which the model is

As the names suggest, these materials offer an

exceptional level of detail but the print lines are still visible and do require some work to remove. Despite

the higher costs involved, these are my preferred

Shapeways materials for most detail applications

and would recommend them for 2mm and 4mm

High Definition Acrylate:

This material is a photosensitive resin that is cured using a laser, a process known as Stereolithography (SLA). The laser is mounted under a vat of the resin and is directed to the areas in each layer where the resin is to be cured. At the conclusion of the building

mounted, moves upwards by 50 microns and the process repeats

High Definition Acrylate can produce features as small as 0.1mm in height and width, and its price and strength are comparable with the Frosted Detail materials.

This material also requires a support structure to be printed, although it is capable of handling limited overhanging areas without additional supports. However, unlike the Frosted Detail materials, these are made out of

PRACTICAL BRM

Other Materials:

Shapeways offers a variety of other materials which might be of use to the modeller. These include, but are not limited to:

- Steel Similar surface characteristics to Strong White and Flexible but a lot harder!
- Platinum/Gold/Silver/Bronze/Brass All printed in wax and then investment cast, not quite as detailed as some of the other materials and quite expensive.
- Castable Wax For those wishing to investment cast their own work.
- Aluminium Laser Sintered, not great for fine detail and expensive.
- Metallic Plastic Strong White and Flexible mixed with Aluminium powder.
- Full Colour Sandstone Cheap and colourful (if the designer has added colour renders to the CAD file) but grainy in finish and not good for fine details more fragile than many other materials.



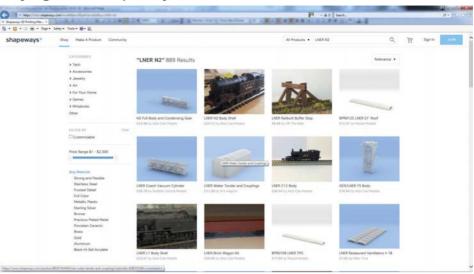
Once you've found what you want (assuming somebody has designed it) you can click on the item, select from the materials the designer has made available and add the item to your 'shopping cart'.

You can continue this process until you have found all the items you wish to purchase. You can move between multiple 'shops' during this phase as Shapeways will consider all these items as one order, regardless who you have purchased from.

Next Steps

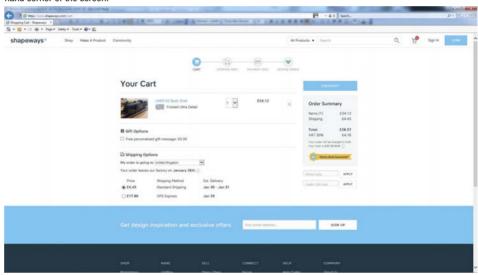
Once you have completed payment, Shapeways sends you an email confirming your order and, in most cases, you will have your model within a couple of weeks. You can then start to work on turning your print into your chosen model, which will be covered in another article. Here, though, are a few images that show what is possible with 3D printing.

Buying from Shapeways:



Shapeways is easy to use and you do not need to join as a member to purchase from the site. However, the sizeable number of items available does mean you can spend hours window shopping!

You will need to know which model you wish to order and, if you know the address of the 'shop' you want to visit, you can go directly there. If you do not know this, or are simply browsing, you can use the search box in the upper right hand corner of the screen.



Once you have completed your shopping, simply click on the 'shopping cart' icon at the top right hand corner of the screen to review your purchases, select youzr shipping method and proceed to the checkout.

If you have joined Shapeways as a member your details will be securely retained by the site. This is not necessary, but you will have to submit your name, postal address, email address and telephone number before continuing to the payment screen. You can make payment to Shapeways for your order using PayPal, a credit card or by bank transfer



Two Strong White and Flexible prints following numerous priming and sanding applications as well as some gloss black car paint. While, with heavier detailing, this material may produce acceptable results in the larger scales, it is not the best material for fine details in N gauge.



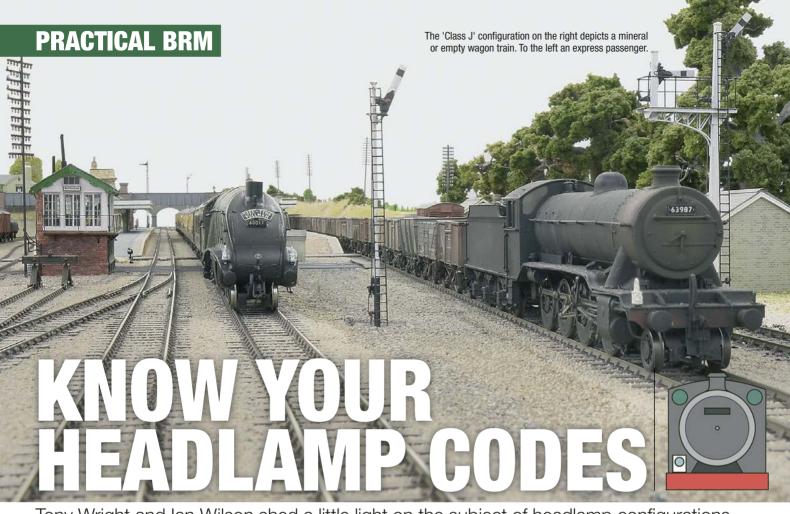
These two locomotive bodies have been printed in FXD and, following a couple of rounds of priming and sanding, are now ready to be painted and have final detailing, such as handrails and buffers fitted. The difference between the SWF and FXD prints is clear once painted. The numerous rivets on the Stanier 2P are around 0.25mm diameter which show the advantages of the Frosted Detail materials over Strong White and Flexible.



This is one of my earliest efforts working with a FUD print and is around five years old. I have not detected any deterioration in the material and it retains all the properties of my newer models. This model would benefit from lamp brackets, coupling hooks and vacuum pipes.

This is one of my more recently completed models and has been printed in FXD. While I hope my ability to fit details, paint and line has improved over the last five years, I feel that this demonstrates that, despite the finer printed layers, there is not a lot to distinguish many FUD and FXD prints once cleaned, rubbed down and painted. However, for a model with numerous compound curves or rivets, FXD would be the material of choice.





Tony Wright and Ian Wilson shed a little light on the subject of headlamp configurations.

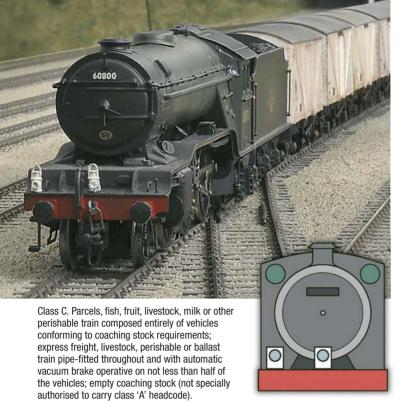
Por generations, locomotives running on Britain's railways carried headlamps to denote the status of the train they were hauling. Failure to display the correct code would usually result in the train being stopped and investigated.

In large station areas, light engine movements were allowed as long as lamps at the front and rear of the locomotive were displayed. British Railways standardised as follows. There were a few exceptions, including the Somerset & Dorset which continued to use two lamp headcodes separating passenger and goods trains.

Trains running on the ex-Great Eastern system tended to be described by discs, rather than lamps, though the codes were the same. The Southern Region also used discs, though these indicated a route to be taken, not the type of train.

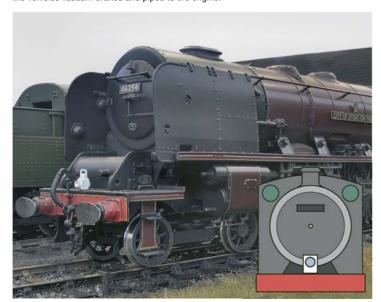
Headlamps have appeared in many different types. BR had white lamp bodies, though each company had its own style of lamp. Commentators have puzzled why shunting tank locomotives display Class A lamps. This is because they're on station pilot duty, where two lamps were carried over the buffers at both ends. The only time when all four lamp brackets had lamps was for the Royal Train, but only if the monarch were on board. If he/she were not present, simple Class A lamps were displayed.







Class E. Express freight, livestock, perishable or ballast train with not less than one third of the vehicles vacuum braked and piped to the engine.

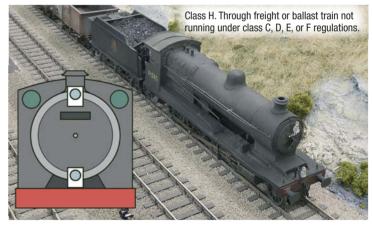


Class G. Light engine or engines coupled with not more than two brake vans.



Class D. Express freight, livestock, perishable or ballast train with not less than one third of the vehicles vacuum braked and piped to the locomotive.

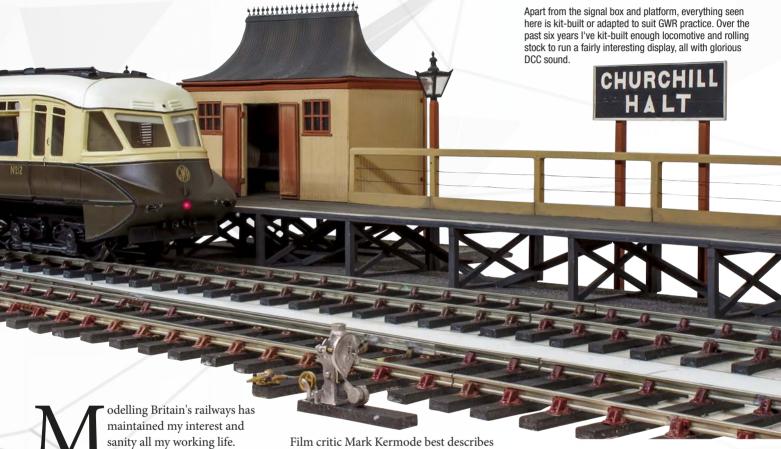




Class K. Branch or pick-up freight, mineral or ballast train.

GRURGHILL HALT

John Taylor's detailed O gauge halt project draws inspiration from the former Banbury to Cheltenham route. Here, we look at some of its features.



maintained my interest and sanity all my working life. It matters not a jot at what level, style or method you choose to follow, as long as you are enjoying the process and can find relaxation and inspiration.

I chose a pathway towards etched brass kit building early on as an alternative to the rather poor RTR products available back in the distant past. Yes, I have been willingly tempted back into the new world of quality RTR from the likes of Hornby, Bachmann and Heljan in 4mm as well as Lionheart, Dapol, Ixion and Minerva, now at much more affordable prices in 7mm.

Now in retirement, I feel I am consolidating all that I have learnt and trying new methods and techniques but have chosen to sell on my 7mm RTR locos and return to loco kit-building using quality kits from Modern Outline (MOK) and Just Like The Real Thing (JLTRT), as well as a few carefully researched lesser quality kits from the 1980s chased up on ebay.

Film critic Mark Kermode best describes what I plan to achieve with Churchill Halt, "to transport you, to totally immerse you, to take you to another world". This, of course, can only be realised by modelling The Great Western Railway. Surely, it is no coincidence that a re-liveried Great Western engine takes Harry Potter to Hogwarts on a regular basis!

Actually, it was a copy of J H Russell's book 'The Banbury and Cheltenham Railway' that introduced me to a suitable prototype location that I felt could be easily and realistically modelled within the confines of my shed. I also feel that by choosing a railway company that is so well supported by the modelling trade saves much time and angst.

So, what I am seeking is the most realistic representation of a Great Western scene, using a prototype location for guidance, a variety of old and new skills, some scratch-building and the careful selection of realistic kits and materials.

After all is said and done, railway modelling

is mostly an illusion plus a personal choice of compromises to achieve your goal.

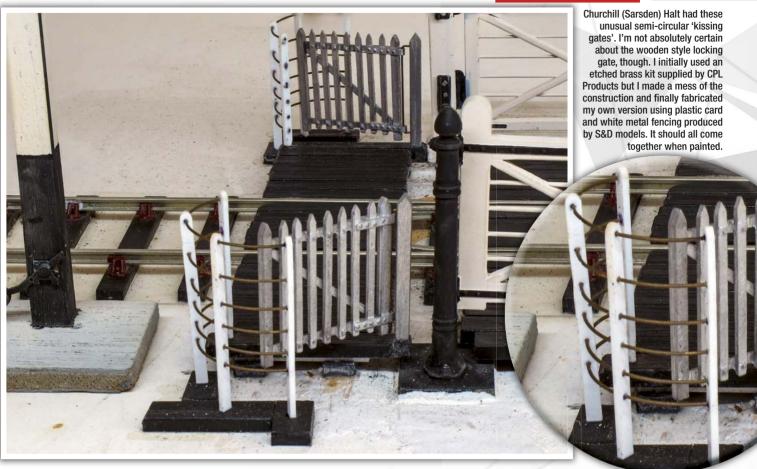
film critic Mark
Kermode best
describes what I
plan to achieve with
Churchill Halt, "to
transport you, to
totally immerse
you, to take you to
another world"



CLICK HERE FOR CONTENT
John Taylor takes us on a guided tour around
Churchill Halt







I used 'The Bouncer' signal servo kit, sadly no longer produced, to operate the crossing gates. I think that Peco produce a similar set up. You can just make out on the furthest gate hinge on the right, my third and final attempt at modifying the all whitemetal gate hinge, to cope with the power of the servo motor using brass channel sections and tubing. I still need to fit the crossing gate lamps and red circle warning boards. I used C&L products thick plastic point timbering to complete the boarding. I think 7mm modelling provides an easier opportunity to get things looking realistic without losing heart over having to include every single detail possible. Sometimes, less is more.





According to the photo evidence, a small signal box controlled the crossing to a mill and private school. Levers also worked the nearest three points. I modelled the box from scratch using plastic 'timbering' lengths from Evergreen Products. Windows and ogee guttering are from Churchward Models and S&D building products. Churchward Models window kits provided the name board, to which I applied appropriate size Ratio Models plastic lettering.

after all is said and done, railway modelling is mostly an illusion plus a personal choice of compromises to achieve your goal

This is a very accurate whitemetal kit of an early style GWR buffer stop produced by ABS Models. Some thought has to be given to avoid electrical shorting across the track. The prototype siding never had this style of buffer stop, but I didn't like the finished quality of the later version produced by ABS so I made an executive decision and swapped.



Here I've started to add point and signal rodding using C&L lost wax cast products. I have followed the photo evidence as far as I can make out to fabricate an economical point locking mechanism. It is not exact. I have also modified the C&L point tie bars to emulate how the prototype functioned. The point blades are operated via angle cranks above and below the baseboard using brass rod and tubing.





Here I used a Skytrex Models GWR Pagoda corrugated hut, which I re-modelled by making my own doors. Following a visit to a real example at Didcot, I was able to model an accurate bench that can just be seen through the open doors. I also fitted internal lighting and reshaped the resin roof edge profile.

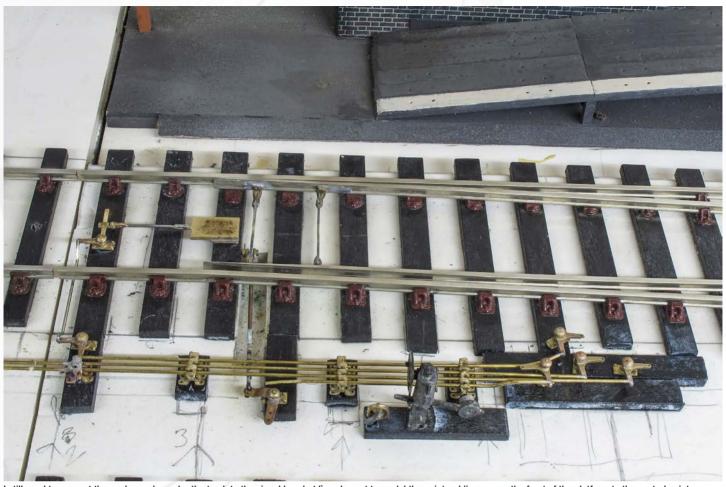
The basswood lamp posts have been hollowed out with a dental burr to take the wiring to more grain of wheat bulbs. I used GWR lamp kits from S&D Models, they are fiddly but worth the effort, as they are more scale size than some 7mm versions on the market.

I made a basic track-making jig to set the correct sleeper spacing, not forgetting that where the fishplates are the sleepers are closer together. I used C&L products and the correct GWR two bolt chair pattern. Track power is provided by dropper wires soldered to every separate 60' rail section and point crossing, disguised by splicing a plastic chair each side of the soldered join. Track is fixed with PVA glue. If you rush your trackwork and rely on fishplates for electrical contact you are likely to become very disheartened further down the line! I am a convert to DCC sound operation and so wiring in isolating track sections is a thing of the past. Of course, you still need to isolate your point crossing Vs in the traditional way.

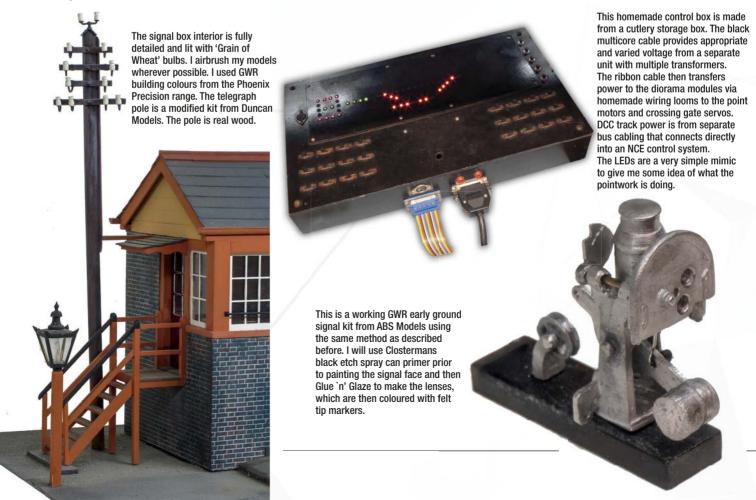
I Spring 2018 I BRM 57



LAYOUT PREWIEW

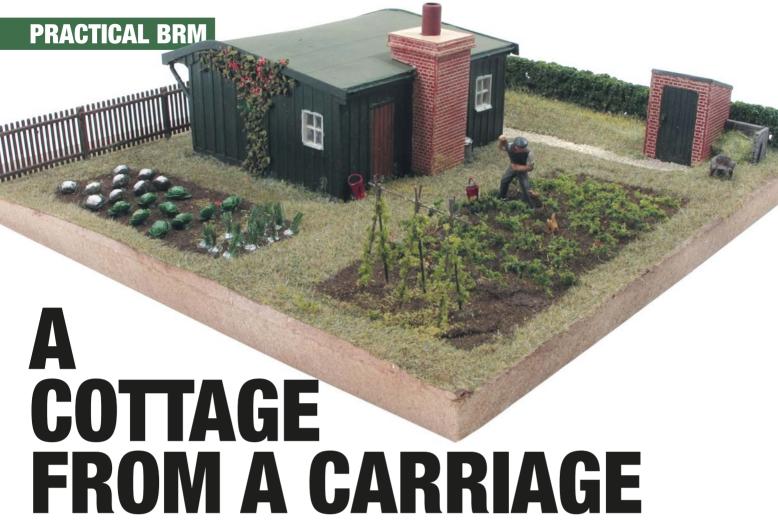


I still need to connect the angle cranks under the track to the signal box, but I've also got to model the point rodding across the front of the platform to the central point crossing. The single slip point and the furthest point are controlled by exposed trackside point levers. Once I have completed the trackwork detailing the whole lot will be airbrushed with a quality etch primer before airbrushing the sleepers and rails with suitable track colours. Ballasting will not be completed until all buildings and scenic contouring has been finalised.









A trip to the North Norfolk Railway was a source of modelling inspiration for Phil Parker, although the project turned out to be a little more involved than usual.

Then you feel the need of modelling inspiration, visiting a preserved railway can provide it. Sometimes you don't even need to see the trains. At the North Norfolk Railway I found the perfect project just inside the gates of Holt station - a cottage made from a railway carriage.

Small scenes like this are perfect corner fillers on a model railway. Although I've used a 'cake box' board, you could fit this scene with a little adaptation into any blank space on the layout - perhaps that oddshaped corner between a curve and the baseboard edge, or something different on the corner of a street in a plot created by wartime bomb damage.

Assuming a wartime, or just post-war scene, the cottage owner is taking part in the 'Dig for Victory' campaign and has turned the lawn over to the growing of foodstuffs. Vegetable patches and allotments have always been popular features for modellers. The gold-standard are those seen at Pendon. I've looked to there for inspiration, but I cheated a little to save myself a lot of time. If you expect to identify the species of vegetable in the ground you'll

be disappointed, as this is very much 80% of the look for 20% of the effort territory.

To make life easier, even if you are planning to fit the model into a layout, I'd still recommend working on a piece of board that can sit on a workbench before being set in place. This is a detailed scene, so easy access makes the build a lot easier especially if you end up planting individual potato plants, like I did.

My model is inspired by the Poppy Line prototype, mostly because I wanted to use the generic Hornby 4-wheel coach as the basis rather than an expensive, but correct, etched brass model. Widely available second hand, they make a great basis for kit-bashing.

While inspired by the prototype, I've ignored the advice I received on wooden outside toilets, preferring to provide a brick privy. If you don't want to scratch-build, have a look at the Hornby Fogman's hut it's about the right size and just needs a door on the front to do the job.

To fit in with the Cake Box competition rules, at least two items of railway interest must be included. The coach is one, but the other is a pair of station fire buckets that I

assume our gardener has retrieved when they were being thrown out. No gardener will let a good bucket go to waste. Talking of the man with a hoe - he's from the classic Dapol set of platelayers figures, so also of railway origin.

This scene took me a week of spare time between other jobs, and I'm still not complete. Apparently I need some chickens, then there is a shed and of course a tin bath to hang on the back wall of the cottage. But then it wouldn't be a model railway if it were ever finished, would it?

What we used

Deluxe Materials - Create and Shape landscaping material Finishing Touches - 1 and 2mm tall

electrostatic grass

Gaugemaster - Hedge

Green Scene - Forest in a Box (Sea foam) Hornby - R4671 4 wheel coach, bought second hand

Pheonix Precision Paints - Superstrip and Superweld

Ratio - GWR Station fencing and drainpipes Slaters - 1mm plain and brick embossed Plastikard, Microstrip

Tasma Products - Cabbages

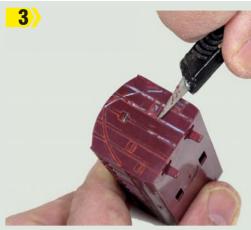
Wills - Building detail pack A for guttering Woodland Scenics - Flock powders



For this project we just need the body and underframe. A missing coupling hook isn't going to be a problem.



Remove the roof (push the glazing in and it slides up) and unclip the underframe before dunking the body in a paint stripper suitable for plastic. Pheonix Precision Paint's version is re-usable, so is very economical, and a plastic tray from a takeaway makes a perfect bath. Wear gloves and use an old toothbrush to scrub the paint away once it starts to bubble up.



The moulded handrails and steps aren't required. Presumably the railway company would have removed the ironwork before selling the carriage body. Carefully trim these and the vertical lines away with a sharp knife, finishing up with some abrasive.



The verticals are now replaced with Slaters Microstrip fixed with an ABS adhesive. It is a lot easier to do this than trying to cut around them in the previous step.



All the "danglies" (as they call them in the NNR carriage works) have to be cut away to just leave the solebar. The plastic is hard, so a sharp saw works best. If you use a knife, keep your fingers well away from the blade.



The extension is built from 1mm plastic sheet, all dimensions being worked out by eye. Doors and windows are from Wills building parts and there is around 4 feet of strip plastic required for the batons. Mine are 4mm apart, which looks about right compared to the real cottage, although I wish I'd taken a tape measure along!



Trace the windows onto a piece of card. Tape a bit of clear sheet to the card and use it as a guide to stick very fine strips of self-adhesive parcel tape to the windows to represent wartime anti-blast measures. The glazing is glued in place before fitting the roof.



The chimney is made from 1mm plastic, wrapped with embossed sheet. I find it easier to cut this oversize and strip it back once the glue has hardened. Corners end up



The roof is more plastic sheet carefully curved and stuck to the walls. Lying the model on its side makes drawing the oddly shaped barge boards simple. I've left the chimney loose at the moment as it's easier to paint this way.



Guttering comes from a Wills building details pack with modified Ratio downpipes, although wire would have been easier to use in retrospect.

PRACTICAL BRM

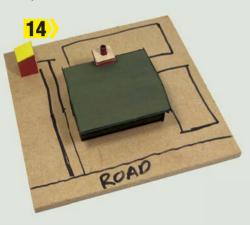


Felt roof covering is quick and easy to model, just use strips of masking tape. Start at the edges of the roof working towards the centre, overlapping each one by a few millimetres. This works in larger scales too – just use tape with a coarser surface.





A couple of coats of Railmatch BR green paint for the walls and the cottage is ready to be set into a scene.



Using an MDF cakebox base provided by Digitrains at their open day last year, mark out the positions of the buildings followed by the vegetable patch. Despite the small size of the building, there's not a lot of space on the diorama.



is built using 1mm plastic box covered with embossed

A mix of Deluxe Materials Create and Shape mixed with brown emulsion provides a little ground contour around the vegetable beds. It's an effect that I've copied from local allotments.



The beds are Woodland Scenics fine turf earth colour flock. Potatoes are planted under raised lines of earth. I built these up with lines of PVA sprinkled with flock. Four layers seemed to give the required result, although I'm no gardener! To add variety, the whole lot was sprayed lightly with Railmatch track colour.



Sticking with the railway theme, the front fence is from the Ratio range of station platform fencing.



The potato plant tops start life as clippings from sea foam plants, sold as Forest in a Box by Gaugemaster.



Each plant is dipped in PVA, then sprinkled with green flock. Finally, it's planted, using tweezers, into a hole drilled in the vegetable patch.

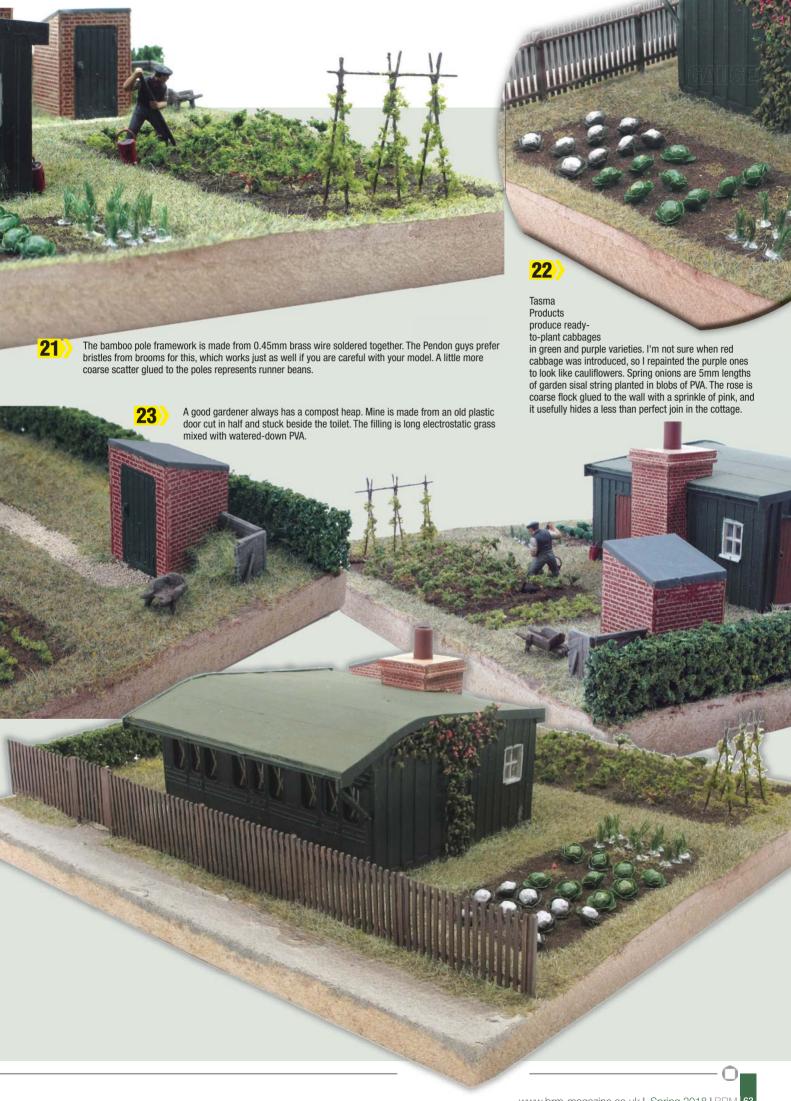


Carrot tops are simply lines of Woodland Scenics coarse scatter carefully glued down with PVA.

A fine tipped plastic bottle is useful for this, or dab it in place using a flat bladed screwdriver.

Expert Advice

Unless you are very organised, it's worth keeping certain modelling products in stock. One of the most important in my opinion, is Slater's Microstrip. I tend to buy assorted packs that contain loads of different thicknesses and widths. These are stored in a cardboard sleeve and I just pick out the ones I need while working. Once a year, I re-stock with another pack or two and add them to the stock. Despite this lack of organisation, this usually means I can find the size I need.



RAILWAY CARRIAGE COTTAGES



Social historian and Education Manager of the North Norfolk Railway, Daisy Robinson, explains how redundant railway coaches found new uses as dwellings across the country.

hose of a certain age might have memories of slow country summer journeys of the early 1970s, the car interior smelling of hot plastic, and through the open windows it wouldn't be uncommon to pass curiously shaped dwellings on well-maintained plots with 'chocolate box' gardens. These cottages were what remained of a now virtually forgotten part of Britain's early social housing - the Railway Carriage Cottage.

Looking back to the late-Victorian period, redundant railway carriages could be purchased relatively cheaply and sited on both rural and coastal plots, providing the financially comfortable, if somewhat bohemian city dweller with a cheap holiday cottage. With no planning regulations inhibiting development and settlement, carriage cottages could be placed amongst the dunes or on picturesque rural plots, and by the early part of the 20th century, many areas of the country played host to small developments of temporary holiday homes, often extended and built around as to hardly resemble their humble origins.

After the Great War's pressure to produce enough food for the nation was removed, the farming industry continued its pre-war decline and the value of agricultural land fell. With plots of marginal land selling for £1 an acre, the unemployed returning soldiers anticipating Lloyd Georges' promised 'land fit for heroes', found that these plots became

a way of obtaining an independent living, and embraced the 'Plotland' movement.

For a budget of £5, a redundant railway carriage could be purchased, delivered by horse, then sited on the plot to provide a stable and dry basis with which to form a home. The magazine 'The Woodworker' even published plans and suggested layouts to help the new home owner with a conversion. One carriage with small extensions could house a family, whilst two carriages placed in an 'L' shaped, or parallel to each other with a pitched roof between would provide far greater scope and privacy.

The 'gap' between two carriages could be as small as 4ft and act as a corridor between the two carriages or far larger and provide

further welcome additional living space.

Externally, the carriage exterior could be painted or clad with little of the original carriage visible.

Internally, the carriage dividing walls would often remain intact. Smaller rooms are easier to heat and furnish, and a single, small solid fuel range or stove was often the sole source of heat for the entire dwelling. This could be flued through a window with the glass removed, or in the case of a range, used for cooking and an external chimney would be constructed.

If the cottage was close enough for connection to basic utilities, a single coldwater tap would serve a stone sink in the kitchen or scullery area, however, water would be more likely to come from a well in the garden, or in very rural areas from a stream. Having no hot water 'on tap', personal washing would be heated in a kettle, and the weekly laundry washed in a 'copper' which was housed in a separate, often timber-shed style building to avoid condensation in the home. Heated by an independent fire below, the 'washday' for the housewife was exactly that and required planning and weather watching. Once 'boil washed', excess water would be wrung from the garments using a cast iron mangle, usually placed outside the wash house and once a regular feature of many back yards.



Beyond the confines of the kitchen, a small pantry. Note rabbits hung to cure, canned foods and bottom left, large cereal storage tins. Details for the inside of your model?



A wooden-bodied grounded coach lingered just a few hundred yards from the sea at Skipsea, East Yorkshire in 2009. Two years later, the coach had disappeared. Note the use of doors to surround the chimney flue. DAVID SMITH

The large galvanised tub which spent most of the week hanging outside on a wall would be brought in once a week for bathing. This would take place inside the scullery if large enough to avoid unnecessary mess in the living space. The water would be heated in the washing copper and carried inside by large jugs - another task which took planning and co-ordination, with each family member

taking their turn in the bathing queue. Finally, the dirty and tepid water would be carried one jug at a time to a water butt outside or decanted away via the sink if a domestic soak-away had been installed.

Sanitary arrangements would consist of a 'bucket and chuck it' housed inside a timber out building and the siting of this was very much dependant on the method of disposal.



Pagham Beach in West Sussex has a number of railway cottages, but it's easier to identify them from the rear. This Victorian carriage grounded in the 1920s is protected by the almost obligatory pebble dashed finish for weather protection and isn't completely disguised by later additions. CLIVE BARKER



PROTOTYPE INSPIRATION

the 'gap' between two carriages could be as small as 4ft and act as a corridor between the two carriages or far larger and provide welcome additional living space.

It would be placed as far away from the living quarters as possible, usually surrounded by lavender or other large and fragrant shrubs, coining the expression the 'shed at the end of the garden'. However, if the dwelling was on the route of the 'honey cart man', the back of the 'privvy' would need to be accessible for the frequent emptying of the pail closet.

The average smallholding plot would contain a range of wooden outbuildings, usually built from materials that could be found, 'borrowed' and re-purposed. These would provide shelter for livestock, as well as housing all the tools required to maintain the plots and repair the home and its contents. The care and maintenance of these were in addition to working full time. If it broke, it needed to be fixed, life for a railway cottage dweller was very different from that in todays 'throw away' society.

So, what of these railway carriage dwellings today? Some still stand in reduced sized plots, dwarfed by new developments built on once productive gardens. Others are heavily extended, renovated and refurbished to provide luxury accommodation for today's holiday maker. Some lay crumbling and overgrown at the bottom of gardens and a lucky few have been rescued by preservation groups, restored to their former glory and once again carry passengers behind steam locomotives along railway lines.

A side view of a carriage at Pagham in West Sussex. They're easy to spot from the beach, normally in pairs and the gap between is filled with extra living space. The carriage doors and windows down the sides of this example have been cutout and replaced with uPVC windows. Conveniently, the guard's observation post has been 'dashed over – possibly a post Victorian LSWR coach? You could model this example and place it on a present-day era layout. CLIVE BARKER



Take a
quided tour of a
railway cottage
ou this wouths'



GAUGEMASTER Spotlight **Prodigy Digital Control**



Controller Types

Which Prodigy Controller?

Prodigy is compatible with most other DCC systems and manufacturers' DCC Decoders. It's strength is 'simplicity without compromise' and Prodigy systems can grow with your layout, allowing you to use the system at a level appropriate to you, your layout, and style of operation. All Prodigy Walkaround Controllers have backlit displays as standard.

Prodigy Express consists of a Base Station, Walkaround Controller, and Power Supply and is an ideal entry level system for a newcomer. Extra features can be unlocked by using the DCC14 Prodigy Advance Walkaround Controller.

Prodigy Advance2 is our best selling DCC Controller. It consists of a Base Station, Walkaround Controller, and a Power Supply, and is suitable for operating most sizes of model

Prodigy Wireless offers all the features of the Prodigy Advance unit but this system offers you wireless control, giving you maximum freedom to operate your layout. Its rechargeable handset and radio transmission ensures easy and reliable performance.

DCC Controller Starter Packages

DCC01 Prodigy Express Starter Package Most Suited for HO/OO/N Scale Layouts



- INPUT: 15-16V regulated DC at 2 amps
- OUTPUT: DCC Signal with 14.5V amplitude
- MAXIMUM CURRENT: 1.6 amps
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WALKAROUNDS: 20
- ADDRESS CAPABILITY: 2 Digit or 4 Digit
- SPEED STEPS: 14/28/128
- ACCESSORY FUNCTIONS: 28 (F0 to F28)
- DOUBLE HEADING
- PROGRAM & MAIN TRACK **PROGRAMMING**
- "READ LOCOMOTIVE" CAPABILITY

DCC02 Prodigy Advance2 Starter Package Most Suited to HO/OO/N Scale Layouts



- INPUT: 15-14V DC 3.5 amps
- OUTPUT: DCC Signal with 14.5v amplitude
- MAXIMUM CURRENT: 3.5 amps
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WALKAROUNDS: 99
- ADDRESS CAPABILITY: 2 Digit (1-127) or 4 Digit (1-9999)
- SPEED STEPS: 14/28/128
- ACCESSORY DECODER AND ROUTE SETTING
- DOUBLE HEADING
- PROGRAM & MAIN TRACK PROGRAMMING
- "READ LOCOMOTIVE" CAPABILITY

BEST FOR General Lavouts DCC04 Prodigy Advance Wireless Starter Package Most Suited to OO/HO/N Scale Layouts



- ALL THE FEATURES OF DCC02 PRODIGY ADVANCE
- WIRELESS RADIO CONTROL (UK Approved)
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Accessories



DCC40 Auto Reverse Module

This useful module allows you to operate a reverse loop or turntable without needing to change the polarity of the track, a common situation that faces modellers with analogue control model railways.

Gaugemaster Full Catalogue Gaugemaster 2016 New Items Leaflet



DCC11 Extension Plate

Adding Extension Plates to your layout allows you to move around it with your wired Prodigy Walkaround, plugging the handset into another position for added mobility. It can be surface mounted and contains cable.



DCC49 8 Amp Booster Unit

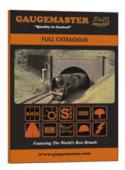
Allows you to separate your layout into different power districts, meaning you can run even more locomotives on your digitally controlled railway, as well as being an upgrade that allows you 8 amps of power - usually enough for even the largest domestic layout.

Full details of our Digital Controller range can be found in the Gaugemaster Full

It also contains details of our Analogue Controllers, Scenics, Point Control, Electrics and much more in the Gaugemaster range

It also contains selected items from many of the other brands that we stock.

GM353 GM356



BEST FOR

Beginners

DCC15 Prodigy Decoder Doctor

Makes programming and reading back your decoders easy! This device allows you to test decoders before or after installation.



There is a built-in 8 Pin socket, and the Decoder Doctor also comes supplied with an adaptor harness allowing you to also test 6 Pin decoders

You can also attach it to a test track for testing already fitted decoders.

Power comes from either a 15V power supply (DCC65) or your DCC Main Track output.

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DCC02	Prodigy Advance2 Starter Package	£299.95
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DCC15	Prodigy Decoder Doctor	£89.95
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Access	sories	
DCC11	Prodigy Extension Plate	£42.95
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SOLVING PICKUP PROBLEMS

RTR locos are getting better, but they don't always run well out of the box. In the first of a short series, Michael Russell shows how you can achieve a smoother outcome.

enerally speaking, manufacturers do a good job of assembling ready-torun locomotives, although it's worth remembering that they are mass-produced items. Therefore, sometimes a bit of fine tuning and optimisation is required to get the best running results. One area that has a particular relevance to performance is the pickups. These need to meet the wheels for the full range of side play in the axles, and the surfaces need to be clean and devoid of debris. If you follow the simple steps outlined in this article you will soon turn a locomotive that often stalls into one that is a pleasure to use.

Next Mouth

With the pickups now sorted, Michael tackles flywheels and suspension...



- When dismantling locomotives, work over a large tray so that stray parts will be caught if dropped.
- To aid reassembly when removing baseplate screws, keep a careful note of which holes they come from. Some may be longer than others or use a different thread.
- While the running gear is disassembled, it is a good idea to lubricate your model if necessary. Consult the documentation that was supplied or download the service sheets from the manufacturer's website.
- If the locomotive is new, check for over lubrication and clean it off while disassembled. I have bought both secondhand and new locomotives that haven't worked well because of this problem.
- If you aren't used to taking locomotives to pieces, start with something small and simple, such as an inside cylinder 0-4-0, 0-6-0 or diesel shunter.
- If you have spray-painted a model, such as when weathering, you will need to clean the wheel treads and pickups carefully afterwards.

Pickup wiper adjustment



Firstly, check that the pickup wipers meet the back of the wheels for the full range of movement. You can do this by pushing each axle to one side, then the other in turn. Make a note of wipers that fail this test, then you can disassemble the locomotive to fix any issues.



For this Bachmann 3F, I had to remove the brake pull rods first. These are a snap-fitting and can be removed by pushing to one side using a pair of tweezers to free the tab from the hole in the brake levers.



To access the wipers, remove the base plate from beneath the locomotive. This varies from locomotive to locomotive, so consult the manual that came with the model or look online for the service sheet. Sometimes you will need to remove the locomotive body first, as in this case.



Lift out the wheels and place them to one side. Using needle-nose pliers, carefully move the offending wipers further out by increasing the bend at the base of the wiper rather than deform the wiper itself.

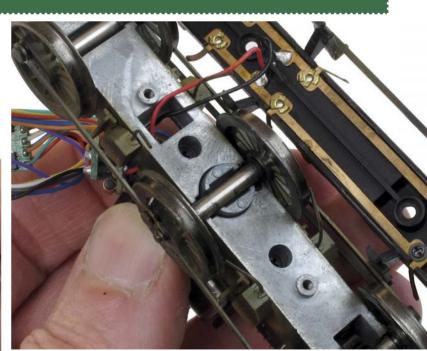


Drop the baseplate back into place and be sure to align any axle bearings carefully with the frames. Ensure that your adjustments have been successful by moving the wheels to either side and checking the wipers are in contact for the full range of movement before you refit the screws.

Sprung axle checks

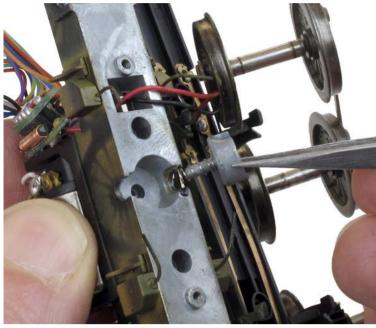


Some locomotives have a sprung axle to aid current collection. This is a great idea, but the mechanisms can seize.

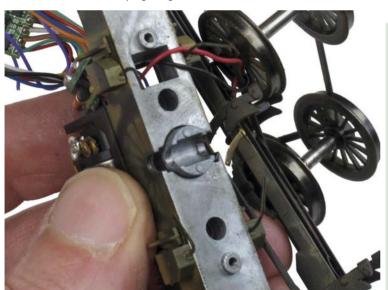


While performing the wiper checks, look to see if a sprung axle arrangement is fitted on any axles that aren't geared. If you find any, depress the wheel set and see if the mechanism is stiff or isn't working. If you find a problem then continue to the next step.

PRACTICAL BRM



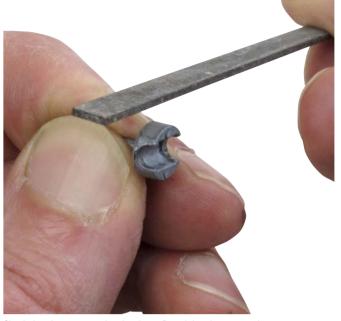
Working over a tray to catch the parts, take a screwdriver and gently lift the pressure plate out. Be careful not to lose the spring hiding underneath.



Replace the pressure plate and spring and ensure that it stands proud of the chassis. Refit the wheels and ensure that the springing action is present. If all is well, refit the baseplate.



Remove the wheels and use a cotton bud that has been dipped in a cleaning solution to clean $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ the wheel treads and the points where the wipers contact the wheels.



Check that the pressure plate is a loose fit and that there are no burrs or stray objects stopping it from moving freely. Also clean out dirt or debris and check the spring for damage and foreign matter.

Wheel checks



With the wheels in place, make a note of where the wipers make contact with the wheels.



Carefully examine the wheels for anything that could cause current collection problems. Pay attention to areas that meet with the pickup wipers and the wheel treads. If you find any debris or ingrained dirt, give them special attention. A glass fibre scratch brush is useful for stubborn deposits.



Take a cotton bud that has been dipped in a cleaning solution and carefully clean the face of the wipers.

What about the track?

The state of your track has a significant bearing on the performance of your locomotives. This series of articles won't cover this, but here are a few issues to consider:

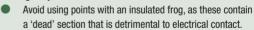


Replace the wheels and baseplate. Don't overtighten the baseplate retaining screws. Check the locomotive on a running track to ensure that all is well.

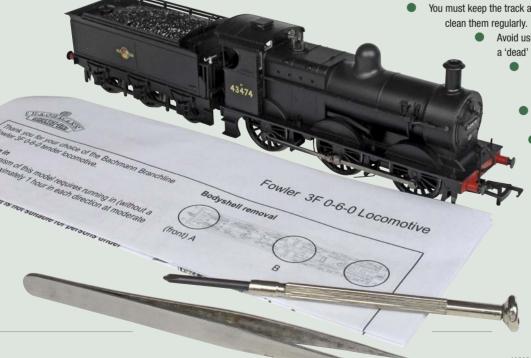




You must keep the track and wheel treads free of dirt, which means you must



- Ensure that every rail of your track has its own soldered power feed; don't rely on fishplates to do this.
- Ensure that the rails on either side of a fishplate are level with each other.
 - If you nail your track down, be careful not to introduce distortion.
 - Avoid sharp changes in gradient or twists in your track.
 - If you have anything other than a very small layout, ensure that you have divided it up into the correct sections and have adequate, good quality power supplies to meet your needs.
 - Your power bus should use wires that are a minimum of 16 gauge.





MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: THE BIGGEST LITTLE RAILWAY

Jennifer Kirk, a team leader on Channel Four's recently aired 'The Biggest Little Railway in the World' recalls the efforts required by almost 160 people to build a miniature railway along the Great Glen Way in Scotland.



After 12 days and through 71 miles of challenging, midge-infested terrain, Dick Strawbridge and the team toast the successful arrival of Silver Lady at Inverness castle. CHANNEL 4/LOVE PRODUCTIONS

model railway across an entire country from west to east coast is a pretty extreme proposition, especially when you add in hostile terrain, Scottish midges (that eat most Midge repellent brands for breakfast and come back for seconds) and the weather.

That was exactly what Love Productions more commonly recognised as the production company behind programmes such as the Great British Bake Off - were planning. They had assembled a team of 56 experts in their respective fields drawn from across the UK to work alongside nearly 100 crew to make this railway project a reality over two weeks. Plus, we would film it to be shown on Channel four. I don't think that Scotland quite realised what it was in for!

The Victorians had proposed several schemes to make a rail link from Fort William to Inverness a reality. None of them got off the ground for a variety of reasons, only a section heading north as far as Fort Augustus was. The rest of the route was virgin territory that had never had a railway - until now.

Love had recruited all of us from across engineering, project management and the world of railway. There were also a fair few modellers like me, and we were to be divided into four track building teams with prominent team leaders such as myself, and a further two 'special build' groups that would tackle specific engineering challenges. Overseeing the whole production were three presenters: Dick Strawbridge, Hadrian Spooner and Claire Barrett.

We would roughly follow the Great Glen Way and hopefully achieve in two weeks something the Victorians never quite managed; namely that we would connect Fort William with Inverness by a direct railway.

The track was something a little different

from what most modellers would recognise. Resembling lengths of guttering, it came in three metre lengths of extruded black plastic that were connected together with fishplates, not unlike the way Hot Wheels track fits together. These sections could be cut and chopped, and whilst it didn't bend, it was possible to create a corner by kinking lots of short sections together in a kind of 'threepenny bit' type curve. The shorter the bits, the tighter the curve - to a point.

For even tighter curves, a two-part flexible track had been devised. These two identical halves could be combined at almost any radius, then made rigid with screws down the centre. All track had a rubberised coating on the rail surfaces to aid adhesion. To give an idea of how much there was, it filled around eleven artic lorry trailers. This was a project on a truly massive scale.

Trackbuilding

At the start of filming the terrain was pretty easy and this allowed the build teams to become accustomed to the art of tracklaying in a gentle manner. It was also about the only day of the filming where it was warm and sunny!

We were to follow a series of cones at quarter mile intervals that mapped out the route and gave instructions of where to turn and sides of the path to keep to. The Great Glen Way was still open to walkers.

Quadbikes were provided that would pull special trailers, consisting of a metal rack frame. Up to just over a quarter of a mile of track could be loaded onto one of these and moved along with all of the other personal gear and tools that we had to take with us. Each group could be laying up to four, five or six miles of track per day, so it was important to get the logistics right.



others have tried to undertake similar feats before, but never on such an ambitious scale





Of course, four groups laying track in remote locations meant that the Production Company struggled to keep us all supplied with the materials we needed, and there were frustrating times where we were slowed down by a lack of track. We took to light-heartedly referring on camera to the mysterious shadowy 'Production' causing calamity, when in fact the reality was that it really was a massive project being run by people more used to the Great British Bake Off, and it was a Herculean task.

Curves were time consuming, especially the flexible ones which were quickly relegated to track variety of last resort when no other method would get the 'head of steel' through! We soon learnt that there were ways to fudge the route to minimise corners, such as using pre-made lengths of track that could be pulled out and fixed in place when the train came, but would be left to one side to keep people's drives and lay-bys open.

Of course, that was all very well on the level towpaths along the Caledonian canal, or the remains of the former railway to Fort Augustus, but in places the terrain became impossible to take a Quadbike on, and we were forced to hand carry bundles of track

up steep stony paths through the Forestry Commission plantations and across exposed mountainsides.

Essentially, wherever the Great Glen Way went, so did we. It became a task so physical that we were fed around 5,000 calories a day in crisps and chocolate and still lost weight!

Challenging obstacles

There were occasions where the geography was interesting. From day one of filming, the special build teams composed of engineers had already gone ahead to put together some pretty special constructions that would hopefully be completed by the time that the tracklaying parties reached them. The idea behind these structures was, in the case of bridges, to build something that represented different types of structure that could be found across the UK rail network.

At one point the route needed to cross a water spillway off the canal. This was built as a miniature rendition of something akin to the Ribblehead viaduct. The sides of this were made from plywood and cut to represent the arches. Once complete it was an impressive sight on a grand scale that would allow *Silver Lady* to make it across the spillway on

the level. Further up the canal a method to get the train from one bank to another was required, and a girder construction was built that would be long enough to bridge the not inconsiderable width of the canal near one of the locks. The canal, like the Great Glen Way, is still in operation and provision had to be made for boats to pass unimpeded. The bridge could be put into position at a moment's notice by carrying one end across the top of the lock gates, then walking it back into position to line up with the track already built at either end.

The next bridge was my personal favourite, between a small rocky stream in the woods outside Fort Augustus. This would be constructed on a graceful S-bend using a structure that would immediately suggest shades of the long-gone viaducts such as Belah on the Stainmore route.

There would also be a helix built in Inverness to allow the train to gain a great deal of height within the constraints of the city. It achieved this in much the same way that a helix in smaller scales might work, except this was quite an epic structure built solidly enough to take a live steam locomotive.

32mm GAUGE

Elsewhere the tracklaying teams were allowed to improvise more modest structures, and each had their chance to shine with specific projects for a day. Team A and B had the honour of the first, with a turntable and crane to lift the train onto a pontoon and float it beneath a bridge. That would have been fine, except the pontoon sank, taking with it the train. Luckily it survived its dunking.

Further up the line at the point that the trestle bridge was being constructed, the route took a steep climb up a path. Regular adhesion would only go so far, so Team C spent the day constructing an elaborate funicular to get the train to the top and then along some of the most stunning views of the route looking down on Loch Ness.

The team I led, D, had its chance towards the end of the film shoot. With only a few days left to go, our engineering challenge was to build a rack railway to scale a steep section of the Great Glen Way. The only problem was that access was poor and our entire track supply had to be hand-carried to the location as not even a Quadbike could get near.

The rack was made by gluing a toothed rubber belt to the top of a pre-cut strip of wood. This was fastened down the centre of the track lengths, and in turn a toothed wheel on the underside of battery powered mule locomotives would assist *Silver Lady* to make the grade.

Scotland provided us with weather that was too cold for superglue to set – this was June! Other smaller structures were fabricated or improvised along the way including a small bridge over a stream on the banks of Loch Lochy. When Dick Strawbridge came to visit us and film a piece, we were rightly proud of our work that had meant that we could cut out several time-consuming curves from the route. Each Team had their similar moments of bodging epiphany.

Near to the end of the line in Inverness a large ramp appeared to get the line up a flight of stairs. At the very end of the line at Inverness castle the local model railway club were able to provide a scenic section for the train to arrive in a station at the feet of the statue of Flora MacDonald.

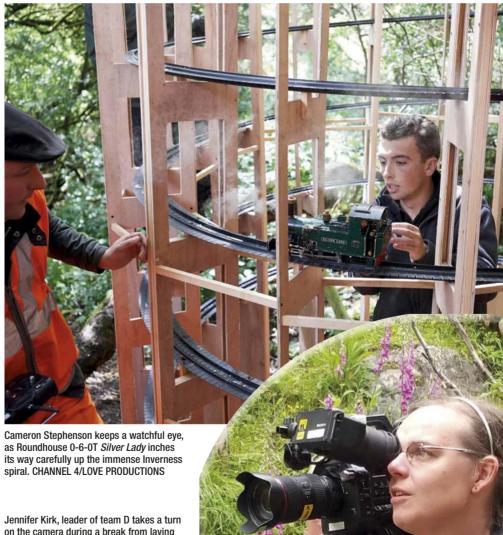
Running the train

The plan was to start the train running from Fort William a number of days behind the build teams so as to allow them to gain a head start. The running crew was drawn from all of the different build teams. The plan was that trackbuilding was to just be ahead of the train as we went into Inverness, as permission to lay the track only allowed for it to be in

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Chris Robertson of team D shows off the curve construction for the camera at the start of the climb up Coire Foithenea from Drumnadrochit. CHANNEL 4/LOVE PRODUCTIONS



Jennifer Kirk, leader of team D takes a turn on the camera during a break from laying track along the disused railway line from Invergarry station. ALEXANDER CROFT

SPOTLIGHT



Team C battles the midge-infested forests of Invermoriston to get the track ready for the impending passage of Silver Lady. ROD NIPPUR

position for a few hours of filming.

The terrain conspired to throw a spanner in the works by being a far cry from what the locomotive had been designed to tolerate on a garden railway. Very quickly it became apparent that progress of the train was not as fast as the track building was progressing, and further personnel were drafted off the build teams. Tools were also improvised to hold the track steady as the *Silver Lady* passed, and also later on physically propping the train down to prevent it falling off. After a few days a night shift was also drafted so that the train never really stopped rolling.

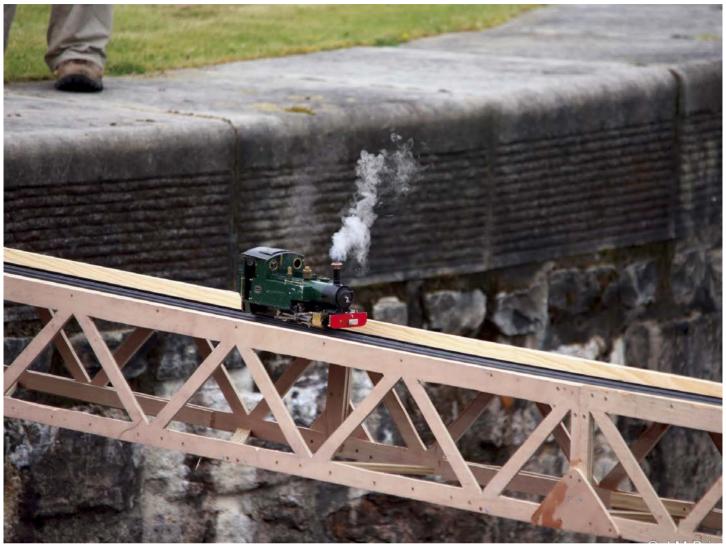
One issue that no-one had bargained for was missing track. Because of communication issues, quite often teams would be dropped in the wrong location and gaps could open up between the end of one team's build and the start of the next. On some occasions the locomotive running team also found themselves hurriedly building sections of the track like something out of Wallace and Grommit!

By the final day, as all four teams quickly laid out the last four miles through the streets of Inverness, the locomotive driving crew had really got to grips how to get the best out of the *Silver Lady*, and she romped home with a huge crowd of spectators following. At times it felt like the whole of Scotland was talking about this madcap project, and it certainly felt like they turned up to watch the final few miles.

A great experience

There were a large number of camera crews on the shoot. Each group had their own dedicated crew that spent the entire day with us, and team leaders were always wired up with a radio microphone, as were three other members of each fourteen strong teams, so we had to be careful what we said. Being a part of a television programme is an amazing experience. Nothing beats having a film runner coming into a crowded restaurant and making me feel all important by loudly asking: "If you could gobble that down it





The locomotive cautiously traverses the Caledonian canal atop the graceful Laggan Locks truss bridge. J M BRISCOE

would be much appreciated because we have a car waiting outside to get you to some extra filming that we need you for".

The team leader's job was a lot of work. From straight after breakfast there were leader's briefings with the main presenters where we went over the nuts and bolts of what we had been doing and what needed to be done that day. For two weeks we were navvies achieving what the Victorians never got around to and it's something that I feel honoured to have been allowed to be a part of.

You probably won't see much in the programme that really brings home how cold and wet it could be. Even in summer, Scotland's weather can be a little challenging. Out on the mountainside the rain could be persistent, and the temperatures could get rather low. Add to that the Midges that would swarm every time the wind dropped away or when we were deep in the trees. Scottish Midges are a hardy breed. Amongst us all we must have used pretty much every type of Midge repellent available to buy, and none of



them were a panacea against the onslaught.

We slept in tents at four different campsites as the construction moved along the Great Glen. Whilst we didn't have to take down or pitch these tents it still meant that getting clothes dry was difficult. There's no substitute to a good bed on aching bones that somehow a paper-thin camping mat and a sleeping bag can't touch! There were nights it was so cold that we woke up teeth chattering under every item of clothing, still failing to get warm.

The camaraderie told a story that none of us really resented. When we left we were like one big family, and friendships were forged that will last a lifetime.

At 71 miles coast to coast, it's unlikely anyone will be mad enough to beat our record. One wonders how Love Productions could ever top something as awe inspiring as a model railway to end all model railways through the most stunning scenery imaginable.





LAYOUT FOCUS

aving got the second of two N gauge exhibition layouts onto the circuit the question came "What next?" The answer was to be found in my display cabinet. Over a number of years I have been building up a collection of brass industrial locos, mostly made for me by David Temple. It was about time to give them something to run on. Thus a ten foot long N gauge layout was followed by a OO gauge layout half the size.

The Area

Coming originally from County Durham and having misspent a goodly part of my late teens in colliery yards gawping at generally filthy steam locos, the county was a given. But where? The coalfield doesn't extend to the Southern third of the county, and the Eastern side had pits that were too big to go into a five foot space.

However, County Durham rejoices in places with eccentric names, 'Pity Me' and 'Quaking Houses' being the first two that come to mind. I considered a quarry in the Staindrop area at a location called 'Seldomseen', but thought this might be an exhortation to show managers not to send me invitations. However, I remembered that Northern General had a bus route from Chester-le-Street to 'No Place' via 'Twizell'. no less.

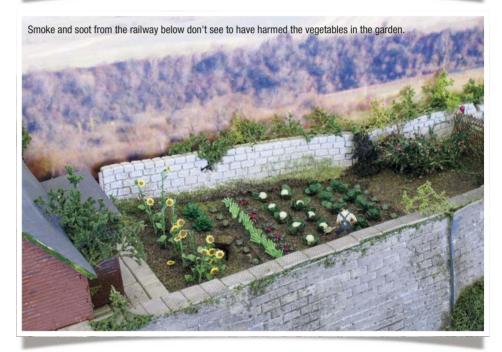
Looking for No Place on old maps showed that the original settlement was just South of the Beamish Mary Inn. It has since been demolished and the name transferred to the adjacent village of Co-operative Villas. Indeed, there is a signpost to both on the A693 at the roundabout at the site of Beamish Station. Not only that, there was East Stanley Colliery, which closed in the late nineteen-thirties and which had been served by a branch of the Beamish railway. There was never an engine shed there, and the track plan looks as if it was either horse or rope-worked. The site is now a large field, with only a small part of a stone abutment by Beamish Mary Inn to show there was ever a pit and railway there.

A Fictional History

After East Stanley Colliery closed the buildings were demolished. However, the Ministry of Fuel and Power turned a few old colliery sites into screening plants for opencast coal. The fiction begins with the East Stanley site being selected for one of these. A new screening plant of corrugated iron on a reclaimed steel frame was constructed, and a wagon repair shop was

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built next to the single-road engine shed. Locos from Beamish worked short trains up the hill to the screens, normally propelling due to the severe gradient.

Fast forward to the early seventies. The screens are still open - just, although a narrow gauge tramway is now derelict and the rails being scrapped. The engine shed and wagon shops have been leased to a preservation group, rather in the manner of Marley Hill shed a few miles away. The preservationists have built a passenger platform and give short rides along the line to Beamish. The NCB, and sometimes BR, shunt the screens, still propelling wagons up the hill. In a few years' time there would be a miners strike and the whole lot closed. The preservationists dispersed their stock and the site was cleared leaving the green field we see today.

Building the Layout

The baseboard is five feet long by two feet deep, and was built from a kit. To this I added a fiddle yard at each end. Originally I was going to only have a yard at the Beamish end and fill the wagons in the screens. Failure to get this to work sufficiently well meant that I added a small yard at the uphill end. The Beamish yard is about 20 inches long and six inches wide, largely because that was the size of the plywood offcut I had available.

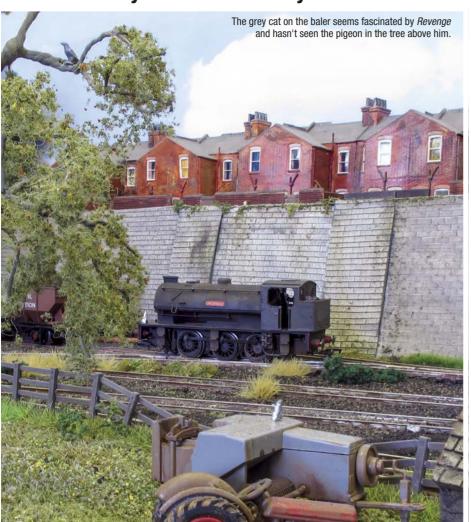






CLICK HERE FOR CONTENTCATCH UP: Lee Richardson describes his

County Durham based layout.









Uncoupling

I wanted a system that was reliable automatic, and which didn't need stock to be modified irreversibly. Each item of stock has a narrow tension lock coupler on one end a wide one at the other. The wide coupler has no hook. The dropper of the narrow coupler has a tiny neodymium magnet glued near the bottom. This is arranged to repel a flat plate magnet set into the track, lifting the hook and effecting uncoupling. The small magnet is glued twice- firstly with superglue to stop it rotating while the glue sets, then again with epoxy as superglue isn't strong enough to keep the magnet attached in use.

All stock is placed on the layout with the dropper facing Beamish and the wider loop facing the screens. Locos have a lamp at the end with no dropper to make it easier to place on the track the right way round in the fiddle yard.

It consists of a single track long enough to keep an 0-6-0 tank and four wagons out of sight. The yard through and beyond the screens is a whole six inches long and nine inches wide, and has no track. This is attached by a pair of bolts.

The ends and backscene are built onto the baseboard, and the proscenium arch is also part of the board. Having designed it to fit on the pair of trestles I used with my N-gauge layout 'Furtwangen Ost'. I promptly sold the layout and the trestles with it. 'No Place' now sits on a pair of oversized trestles borrowed from my next project.

Trackwork is Peco with mostly electrofrog points worked by wire-in-tube. Two exceptions are worked by side-mounted

motors, the motors being disguised under foliage. There is no run-round loop on the layout, the track plan effectively being two inglenook puzzles facing opposite ways.

Control is DCC using the same NCE Power Cabs I use with my other layouts. The two electric points are analogue, and the Peco switches for these are under the terraced house at the back of the layout, together with the levers for the other points. Having blogged both 'Furtwangen Ost' and then 'Hawthorn Dene' on RMWeb I felt the feedback I had received as the layouts progressed had helped me a lot with ideas and suggestions that improved both layouts immeasurably. 'No Place' was therefore blogged, and as a result I've got to know

much more about the area, and had a few mistakes gently pointed out.

Ground and Structures

The main line is set at a diagonal, entering under a lane behind the loco shed, and running to a short headshunt in the front left. Kicking back from this headshunt is the preservationists' yard with the wagon workshop and loco shed both at an angle to the front. The screens are at the left, beyond the main running line. At the front this left a pair of fields in a D-shaped area slightly above yard level to bring the eye into the picture. A tree is used as a view blocker. At the rear of the layout a big wall defines the boundary of the railway. This was mocked



As the screens are supposed to be neglected and decaying I made a feature of this with a puddle in the dip formed by layers of gloss varnish with scatter material at the edges.

The wagon workshop is a superb laser-cut kit by LCut Creative. I failed to recognise the centre section of the roof and needed to seek help and replacement parts. Grateful thanks go to Derek and Jakub for their patience. The wonky wall was caused by painting one side only with acrylic paint heavily diluted with thinners. However, the prototype would have been affected by subsidence so the end result fits the purpose.

Houses along the back are upcycled donations to Bingham Model Railway Club, part-repainted and weathered. The engine shed is one of Kernow's Helston buildings. The stonework was correct for this part of County Durham, so a small amount of paint and weathering produced a much better shed than I could build myself. Similarly the barn at the front came from a war gaming fair, as did much of the stone walling around the outside.

The Stock

Locos are the main reason for the layout's existence and of course I have far too many. Most are 0-4-0 or 0-6-0 types, both steam and diesel. BR is represented by one each of Class 03s, 05s, 08s, and occasionally by a high-bunker DJM J94. The screens are shunted by these and by a pair of Hornby J94s, which I have fitted with Geisl ejectors and chipped for DCC. Both are weathered very heavily and really belong in the North Western Area. One of them has a most realistic wheel-flat clunk.

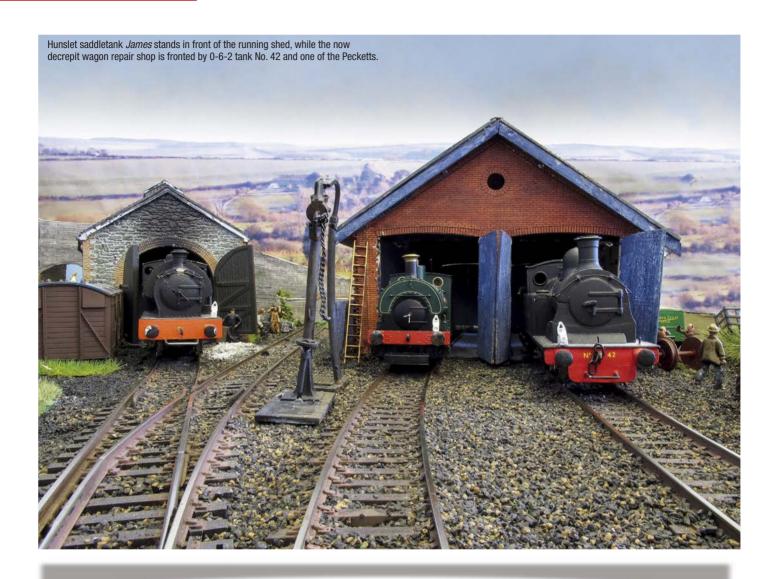
The preserved fleet includes more WDs,

up in cardboard then covered in heavy plastic for strength with a layer of Redutex forming the individual stones. The Redutex was repeated as a separate layer as the original OO-scale stonework was too small. The current top surface is O-scale. Capping stones are Metcalfe Models paving stones. These didn't stick as the level capping I wanted so have been heavily weathered with foliage and moss to explain why some are lifting unevenly.

Buildings are a mixture of ready-to-plant, recycled kits and kits built amazingly badly by me, not always deliberately. The screening house is a made from parts of a Walthers kit deliberately assembled in the wrong order with Wills stone sheet cladding at the bottom. When I added the flat roof I had failed to brace it adequately and it sagged.



LAYOUT FOCUS



most of which are clean. Other ready-to-run locos are Bachmann USA tank, a Beattie Well tank and a pair of Hornby Pecketts, both renamed and renumbered. Kitbuilt locos include a Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0 tank and 0-4-0 saddletank by Agenoria, a Mercian Hunslet 50550 Class 0-6-0 saddletank, a tiny Ruston and Hornsby diesel by Judith Edge kits and a Taff Vale 0-6-2 tank, which is the largest loco in regular use. An occasional visitor is a K1 62027, the prototype of which I spent an hour clambering over outside Arnott Young's scrapyard at Dinsdale. Almost all locos have a driver, from as wide a variety of sources as I could manage.

The latest arrival is another DJModels WD. This one has had its cab replaced by an RT Models etched Lambton cab and is finished off as No. 51, an engine I had a cab ride on at Philadelphia some fifty years ago. No lettering on the tank side as I don't remember No. 51 having any, though that may be due to the loco being filthy. I'm not sure whether or not to cover it in grot.

Exhibiting No Place

The layout has enough to keep two operators busy throughout a show. Before the passenger train appears a loco is taken from the shed to the one of the screens sidings. The passenger train arrives and pulls forwards. The loco uncouples and runs into the headshunt then back to the crane. Meanwhile locos coal up and then stand ready for work. The loco from the screens siding is brought out to couple to the coach and stand at the platform ready for the next departure. Nothing is fixed, except that it is easy to end up without a loco to take the passenger coach out, because all available motive power is trapped in the shed area.

The Future

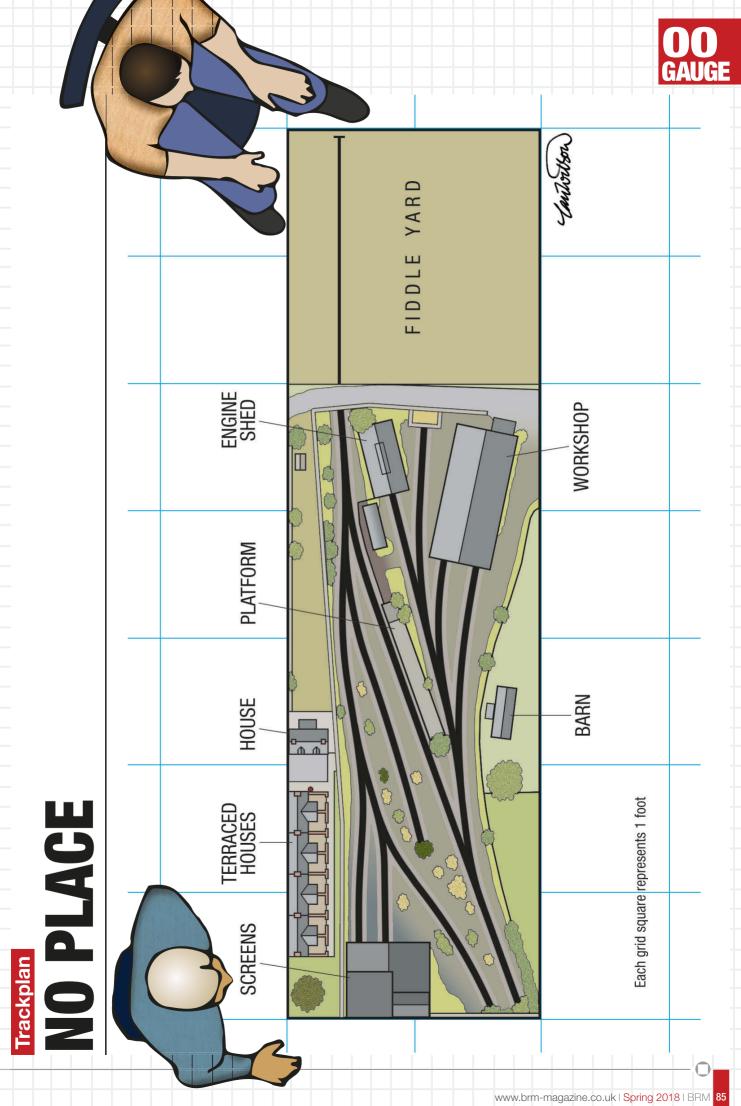
Layouts are never really finished, and there are still details to add. There are a couple more locos to chip, including working out how to fit a decoder invisibly into a Backwoods Models Doxford crane tank. More needs to be done to weather locos and wagons, but 'No Place' has now been to three shows and been well received at all three. In 2018 it will be at the L&YDCC show at the Manchester Museum of Transport in May. Meanwhile the next project has started- back to N-gauge with a model of Croft Spa. In conclusion I need to thank my contacts on RMWeb for their advice and Bingham Model Railway Club for their support. ■



Meet the modeller

Living near Newark on Trent, I am a retired teacher and exhibition manager for Bingham Model Railway Club. I started with my first models at the age of 11 and have gone through TT, OO, HO and N over the years. Nowadays I mainly model in N, so this layout has been a chance to experience different problems.

Les Richardson



DAPOL UNVEILS **GWR MOTIVE** WER

Model manufacturer Dapol has seen a recent flourish in the launch of new models which is set to continue with the unveiling of two new OO gauge locomotives. Announced in the midst of the Bachmann and Hornby announcements, a GWR 5101 Class large 'Prairie' 2-6-2 and GWR Mogul 2-6-0 are currently under CAD development and expected with Dapol stockists at the end of the first quarter of 2019.

GWR Mogul 2-6-0

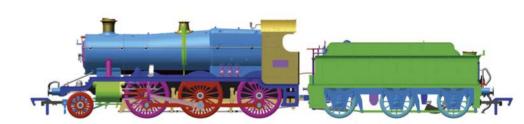
Artwork and specification of both models has been revealed. The 'Mogul' will represent the later Churchward-built examples carrying numbers 5390 to 7321, constructed between 1920 and 1923 with the final eight (6362-6369) in 1925 under Collett.

The Collett locomotives had outside cylinder steam pipes fitted from new, whilst these were added to the majority of the earlier batch from the late-1940s to the early-1950s. The last Class member, No. 6395 was withdrawn on November 21, 1964.

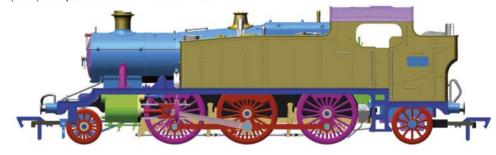
Dapol's model will be paired with a standard Churchward 3,500-gallon type tender. A hinged fall plate between the two disguising the push-fit drawbar with integrated electrical connections. All-wheel pickup, a sprung centre driving wheel and cam-operated front pony truck will ensure smooth running and operation around second radius curves.

A Next-18 DCC decoder and a no-solder speaker connection is made possible by sliding the connecting board through the smokebox door which connects directly to the locomotive motherboard. An optional base reflex speaker can be fitted into the tender. On factory-fitted sound locomotives, a firebox glow can be synchronised with the sound.

Other options on the models include



The two new models, a GWR 'Mogul' 2-6-0 (above) and GWR 2-6-2 'Prairie' (below) are expected to arrive with retailers in 2019.



Churchward taper/Collett straight shank buffers, smokebox with/without cylinder steam pipes, tall/low vacuum pipes, tall/short safety valve covers, smokebox top-mounted/ door-mounted lamp brackets and smokebox number plates for BR-era locomotives.

GWR large 'Prairie' 2-6-2

The GWR's 5101 Class of large 'Prairie' locomotives were updated versions of its 3100 Class and were built between 1929 and 1939 which included the 6100 series, designed for London suburban services with a higher boiler pressure. The final batch was built between 1946 and 1949 with the last twenty receiving black from new. During December 1965 the last eleven locomotives were

withdrawn all from the 6100 batch. Dapol's models will represent those from the early 1930s when cab side shutters were added and its specification closely mirrors that of its GWR 2-6-0 'Mogul', with a sprung centre driving wheel and pony truck, plus lamp bracket and safety valve cover location and size options. A similar tool-free decoder and speaker fitting board will slot into the model through the smokebox door with a clip-fit.

A patent-pending design promises trouble-free access

to install a DCC decoder without tools.

Prices are expected to be in the range of £135.95 for the 'Prairie', £159.95 DCC-fitted and £285.95 DCC sound-fitted and £159.95 for the 'Mogul', £183.95 DCC-fitted and £309.95 DCC sound-fitted. See its website for full details.

W www.dapol.co.uk

DJM APT UPDATE

Durham Trains of Stanley has announced that funding for its crowd-funded APT-P, to be manufactured by DJModels in OO and N gauge, is progressing well. Funding for its OO gauge model is currently running at over 65% of the total required, whilst its N gauge model is over 25% funded.

The promising specification of the models includes a working tilting mechanism in both gauges, a Next18 decoder socket, onboard DCC sound capability, directional lighting, internal car lighting throughout, tartan seats, a painted buffet car, removable nose and much more.

Prices for the models start at £549.95 for a five car N gauge set and £649.95 for a OO gauge five-car set, with six, seven, 10 and 14car sets being offered in both scales. DJModels is continuing work on the design of this model ahead of the anticipated 'laser scanning party' at Crewe Heritage Centre. To place your preorder and guarantee a model, visit the Durham Trains of Stanley website.

W www.durhamtrainsofstanley.com

MEGAPOINTS' MINIPANEL

MegaPoints Controllers new MiniPanel - a mimic panel controller for smaller layouts of up to 12 turnouts or semaphore signals - is now on-sale. Available in standalone and starter kit versions, the MiniPanel allows plug and play connection of LEDs and buttons for your mimic panel. Connection to turnout motors is via a network cable.

Its starter kit has 24 LEDs and 12 buttons with cables, button mounting screws and circuit boards for 12 servo, solenoid or stall-type motors. Suitable for all gauges from N to 71/4in, the new MiniPanel starter kits are priced at £150.

W www.megapointscontrollers.com





CRAVENS FROM MURPHY MODELS

Irish manufacturer Murphy Models has produced Cravens coaches in OO gauge. Made exclusively for the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI), a three-coach pack based on the current GNR(I) style blue/cream livery applied to the RPSI Cravens set for railtour operations across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is now available from its website. All proceeds from sales go towards helping the RPSI maintain and develop its main line steam operations.

The models in the RPSI Blue and cream livery, standards 1505 and 1532 along with snack car 1508, were produced as a fundraising project to assist the Society with the purchase of a water bowser vehicle. The purchase of this vehicle will assist the operation of steam trains around the network. Remaining funds will go directly to the overhaul of 134, currently underway in Inchicore works.

The three coach sets are priced at €159.99 (£145). To purchase a set of the models, visit its website or Marks Models, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2.

W www.steamtrainsireland.com



With a wealth of detail complemented by an excellent paint finish and application of transfers, Murphy Models' latest exclusives are sure to please modellers of the Irish rail scene.

TOY FAIR 2018 REPORT

The London Toy Fair took place at Olympia during January and is the UK's largest exhibition for the toy industry in the country. Model railway interest is limited, but Hornby and Oxford Rail were in attendance to show products to retailers.

RAIL-MOUNTED GUN

Oxford Rail and Oxford Diecast divisions used the show to announce new models, many of which appear are at prototype stage. A surprise addition to its railway range is its rail-mounted Gladiator Railgun (OR76BOOM02). Known as the 'Boche Buster' and developed during World War I, it saw use again in World War II. The prototype survived at Shoeburyness until 1959 and OxfordRail's model will be available on its own or as a pack with a Dean Goods in olive drab livery as ROD2330 (OR76BOOM01/XS). A sound-fitted version of this locomotive will include a suitable gun-firing noise.

Dean Goods - OR76DG006

For those modelling a wartime theme, the popular GWR 0-6-0 'Dean Goods' will be released in plain black as WD 101.



Oxford Rail's GWR 0-6-0 'Dean Goods' in GWR unlined green.



GER/LNER N7 0-6 2T - OR76N7001 / OR76N7002 / OR76N7003

Engineering prototypes for the N7 announced last year were on show. The model will be produced with both Belpaire and round top boilers.



Mk3a Coaches

Five decorated samples of its Mk3a coach were on show in West Coast Mainline blue and grey livery as seen between 1975 and 1984. These are awaiting approval.

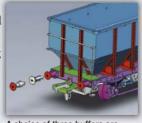
COMING SOON FROM OXFORD RAIL...



ACCURASCALE - NEW OO GAUGE MANUFACTURER



A new model railway manufacturer, Accurascale, has announced its first model for the British market. Headed by the four founders of Irish Railway Models, the firm's new 24.5T HUO coal hopper wagon has finished tooling and an engineering sample is currently en-route from its factory in China. A total of 8,263 of the wagons were built by BR from 1954 for transporting coal and coke throughout Britain until their withdrawal in the 1980s, with many entering private use at collieries upon retirement by British Rail.



A choice of three buffers are offered, providing modellers with greater variety in wagon rakes.

The model representing diagram 1/148 to lot 2069 has been designed around the surviving prototypes surveyed at the Tanfield Railway, County Durham. Accurascale has made a donation to the railway for its help.

Accurascale's rendition of the HUO will feature an offset brake hanger arrangement a choice of spindle, heavy duty and Oleo type buffers, NEM coupling housings, RP25.110 darkened profile wheel sets, wire handrails, lettering and markings from real wagons and tolerances allowing the conversion to EM and P4 standards.

The HUO will go on sale in the second quarter of 2018 in packs of three, with pre-TOPs, TOPs and private owner packs arriving on a staggered release basis throughout 2018 in a variety of liveries, such as BR freight grey and bauxite. The first release will see four different packs of three individually numbered wagons in BR grey with pre-TOPs markings allowing a 12-wagon consist without duplication.

Flows which utilised HUO wagons include coke from East London to Wellingborough, Kirkby- Staythorpe, Killingworth to Stella, Kincardine, Stella North / Stella South / Dunston / Blyth, Thorpe Marsh Tunstead Works - Smaledale Works and Hessle Quarry to Hull Wilmington. They were also synonymous with coke flows from South Wales coking plants to Barry Docks.

W www.accrascale.co.uk



CLICK HERE FOR CONTENT

PRODUCTS



British Model Railway Awards 2017

The results of the hotly anticipated BMRA's are in. Here are the winners from each category.

The BMRA results from 2017 products see a lot of glory shared between the key players with Graham Farish having a clean sweep in the N gauge categories and Dapol taking the laurels in O gauge. In the fiercely contested OO gauge sectors there's wins for Hornby, Dapol, Bachmann and Hatton's. Hornby take the title of OO gauge manufacturer of the year whilst Bachmann/Farish jump back up a spot from 2016 to win the Overall manufacturer of the year award again. With Hatton's Model Railways and Kernow Model Rail Centre joining the ranks of manufacturers with products directly sourced from China it is interesting to see they have found favour coming just behind the big two names in the manufacturer titles.

Hatton's has gained top spot in the Retailer Customer Service Award, received several nominations and a large number of votes for its website. Rails of Sheffield appeared in the top two indicates that modellers spend a lot of time considering purchases online.

The Model Railway Club's 2mm scale 'Copenhagen Fields' appeared at our Alexandra Palace and Peterborough shows last year and took home 'Layout of the Year' award. Regular **BRM** and RMweb contributor, Tony Wright earned his title of 'RMweb Modeller of the Year'. The organisers of the Warley show continue to dominate the 'Exhibition of the year' category – proof that the UKs largest gathering of model railways is still a firm favourite for many.

A total of 5,200 voters took place in this year's poll, and here we rank the top three of the main categories – see the full list of results on *www.rmweb.co.uk*. Finally, we'd like to thank everyone for taking part in rewarding the industry.



Bringing home the award for best locomotive in the N gauge locomotive category was the new Class 40 from Graham Farish.

N GAUGE LOCOMOTIVES	Votes	%
Graham Farish Class 40 diesel	825	40.7%
Graham Farish Castle Class 4-6-0	704	34.8%
Union Mills 'Dukedog' 4-4-0	313	15.5%

OO GAUGE STEAM	Votes	%
Hornby 'Princess Coronation' 4-6-2	603	17.1%
Hornby 'Merchant Navy' Class 4-6-2	587	16.7%
Hornby 'H Class' 0-4-4T	575	16.3%

OO GAUGE MODERN TRACTION	Votes	%
Dapol Class 68	766	22.9%
Kernow Class D16/2 'Bulleid diesel'	594	17.8%
Dapol GWR streamlined railcar	489	14.6%

OO GAUGE COACHES	Votes	%
Bachmann SECR/SR/BR Birdcage stock	1223	38.7%
Bachmann LNER/BR Thompson stock	812	25.7%
Kernow Model Rail Centre Gate Stock	594	18.8%





O GAUGE LOCOMOTIVES	Votes	%
Dapol 3F 'Jinty' 0-6-0	972	49.9%
Minerva Models 57XX/8750 0-6-0PT	355	18.2%
Little Loco Company Class 15	324	16.6%

O GAUGE ROLLING STOCK	Votes	%
Dapol GW Autocoach	828	45.5%
Dapol 12T ventilated van	328	18.0%
Dapol/Lionheart GW Collett non-corridor stock	252	13.8%

OVERALL MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR	Votes	%
Bachmann/Farish	1145	27.9%
Hornby	920	22.4%
Hatton's Model Railways	486	11.8%

RETAIL CUSTOMER SERVICE	Votes	%
Hatton's	1820	44.4%
Rails of Sheffield	966	23.6%
Kernow Model Rail Centre	575	14%



The Warley Show won 'Exhibition of the year'.

LAYOUT OF THE YEAR

Copenhagen Fields

Waverley West

Little Bytham

EXHIBITION OF THE YEAR	Votes	%
Warley National	999	35.7%
London Festival of Railway Modelling	441	15.8%
Model Rail Scotland	260	9.3%

Votes

639

351

350

%

21.9%

12%

12%

A clear win for Dapol in the 0 gauge rolling stock category was secured with more than 45% of votes for its GWR Autocoach.

INNOVATION OF THE YEAR	Votes	%
Peco Code 75 bullhead turnouts	904	25.1%
Modelu 3D printed figures	835	23.2%
Train Tech SSP1 Automatic Signals	788	21.9%

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR	Votes	%
Hatton's	1805	45.6%
Rails of Sheffield	731	18.5%
UK Model Shops	284	7.2%

MODELLER OF THE YEAR	Votes	%
Tony Wright	489	23.2%
Dave Segar	347	16.2%
Allan Downes	338	15.8%



sure to be a popular staple product.





Model • Collect • Create



From all of the team at Bachmann Europe Plc, we would like to express our sincere thanks to you, our valued collectors and modellers, who voted for our products in the recent 'British Model Railway Awards', in association with BRM, MREmag and RM Web. Without you showing your appreciation of our products by way of a vote, our Branchline and Graham Farish models would not have won the many awards that they have over the years. We hope that our high-quality models continue to delight you for many years to come.



OO Scale Coaching Stock Winner 2017 - Bachmann Branchline SECR 60' Birdcage Coach



Thank You!

From Bachmann Europe Plc -

Overall Manufacturer of the Year 2017



N Scale Manufacturer of the Year 2017 - Graham Farish



N Scale Locomotive Winner 2017 - Graham Farish Class 40 Diesel Locomotive



N Scale Rolling Stock Winner 2017 - Graham Farish Hawksworth Auto Trailer



NEW MODELS

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GOLDEN VALLEY HOBBIES (GV2014) 'JANUS' 0-6-0 SHUNTER BP

Golden Valley Hobbies is taking delivery of its latest exclusive - a 'Janus' 0-6-0 diesel locomotive in the distinctive livery of turquoise with BP cabside emblems and yellow bufferbeams as seen at BP refineries and is available to order from its website. See its website for two new livery announcements of this model - GV2016 Allied Steel and GV2020 ICI *Richard Borrett*, both expected later this year. We apologise for the incorrect attribution of the model in the Feb issue of **BRM**, this is a GVH exclusive, also available from selected retailers.

Price £99.95

W www.goldenvalleyhobbies.com

BACHMANN (38-750Z) 22TON STV TUBE WAGON CHELTENHAM MODEL CENTRE EXCLUSIVE

Available to pre-order from the Cheltenham Model Centre, this 22 Ton STV Tube wagon in the red and yellow of Satlink Western livery is sure to catch your attention in an engineering train. The wagon depicts KDB730863, as used by the Signal & Telecommunications department of British Rail from the mid-1980s to carry anything related to signalling and communications. Produced as an exclusive limited edition run of 504 by Bachmann, pre-ordering is advised to avoid disappointment.

Price £30.95

W www.cheltenhammodelcentre.com





BACHMANN (32-135X) 4575 CLASS 'PRAIRIE' TANK NO. 5541 KERNOW MODEL RAIL CENTRE EXCLUSIVE

Finished in BR lined green livery with late crest, Bachmann's 4575 Class 'Prairie' is decorated to depict No. 5541 with a lightly weathered finish. The model is DCC ready with an eight pin socket. Production is limited to 512 models, each supplied with a numbered certificate of authenticity.

Price £119.95

W www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com



BACHMANN (28-140W) 29T ZXA VAN KERNOW MODEL RAIL CENTRE EXCLUSIVE

Representing wagon number ADC201055, Bachmann's 29T van sees application of the vibrant red over grey livery of Serco in this exclusive for Kernow Model Rail Centre. Based on the VDA van, the model depicts a vehicle recoded ZXA for use in infrastructure monitoring trains. A matching coach pack is in preparation, for which details will shortly be unveiled.

Price £27.95

W www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com



REVOLUTION TRAINS CLASS 390/0 AND 390/1 'PENDOLINO'

Crowd-funded N gauge specialist RevolutioN
Trains has released its first powered mode - the
Virgin Trains Class 390/0 and 391/1 'Pendolino'.
Currently en-route to those that placed deposits
in 2015 and manufactured by Rapido Trains
of Canada, these units are supplied in quality
packaging and boast fine levels of detail. See its
website for other crowd-funded projects.

Price Sold out

W www.revolutiontrains.com



BACHMANN 40T YGB 'SEACOW' EWS (38-132Z) AND CIVIL ENGINEERS (38-131Z) KERNOW MODEL RAIL CENTRE EXCLUSIVES

Kernow Model Rail Centre has taken delivery of two exclusive Bachmann 40 T YGB 'Seacow' bogie hopper wagons DB982790 in weathered EWS livery and DB982608 in weathered civil engineers livery. Half-peeled OHLE warning flashes to reveal the older ones beneath, matching the prototype and rust patches are key features. Note the two different lengths of overhead platform protection, an ideal way to vary your post-1996 ballast wagon rakes.

Price £54.95 each

W www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com



CLICK HERE FOR CONTENT

A look around Bachmann's new 'Teak' Thompson carriages



№ NEW MODELS

N GAUGE SOCIETY BR MK1 CARFLATS



chassis for the transportation of cars. The vehicles had a tare weight of 23T and initially ran on their original BR1 bogies. The N Gauge Society commissioned Graham Farish to produce models of the 64ft-long variant, the most common, although a few were converted from 57ft vehicles, however these aren't to be represented. The carflats were employed on Motorail services from 1966 and were soon used for vehicle manufacturer block train workings.

The N Gauge Society has a long history of identifying and commissioning rolling stock that modellers feel is missing from the modelling scene in 2mm:1ft scale. Its previous RTR models include Thompson and Collet gangwayed full brake coaches (BG) and this, its seventh RTR model produced is available in six different guises, catering for all eras throughout the lifespan of these vehicles.

Announced in July 2016 and now arriving with the Society 18 months later, the variants offer a choice of liveries from BR brown to blue, blue with Motorail branding, BR bauxite and Railease yellow, representing the last batch converted in 1979 for wagon lessor Railease.

The prototype carflats are Mk 1 coaches minus their bodywork and Graham Farish already having Mk 1 coaches in its range has made development of this model easier - indeed the BR1 and B4 bogies on the model are identical and these are very fine. Model research has played a key role with the production of these models, to the extent that the moulded plastic TOPs data panels are larger on some models than others. Transfers are equally brilliant, in-keeping with the quality of models from this manufacturer and it's evident that photographs of prototypes have been carefully consulted when looking around particularly the Railease model variant. Very small lettering adorns the underframe on this model, more so than the other liveries.

Wagons would be loaded end-on with end doors dropping over bufferbeam end supports, side rails helping to guide stray car wheels as they made their way down the wagons. The side support rails are captured to good effect and despite a half oval appearance because of manufacturing limitations, this is only noticed if scrutinised by the lens of a camera.

A variety of liveries and physical differences like data panels and bogies distinguish the different batches of these vehicles and the eras in which they operated.

In summary, a highly anticipated and great model that'll run just as easily behind an Anglo-Scottish sleeper train as it will in a rake topped with new cars. You'll need to become an N Gauge Society member to order one, but in doing so you'll support a worthy cause that seeks to improve the standards and availability of models in the scale. Don't forget to make Motorail-branded windscreen protection tarpaulins for your cars to avoid those chipped windscreens!

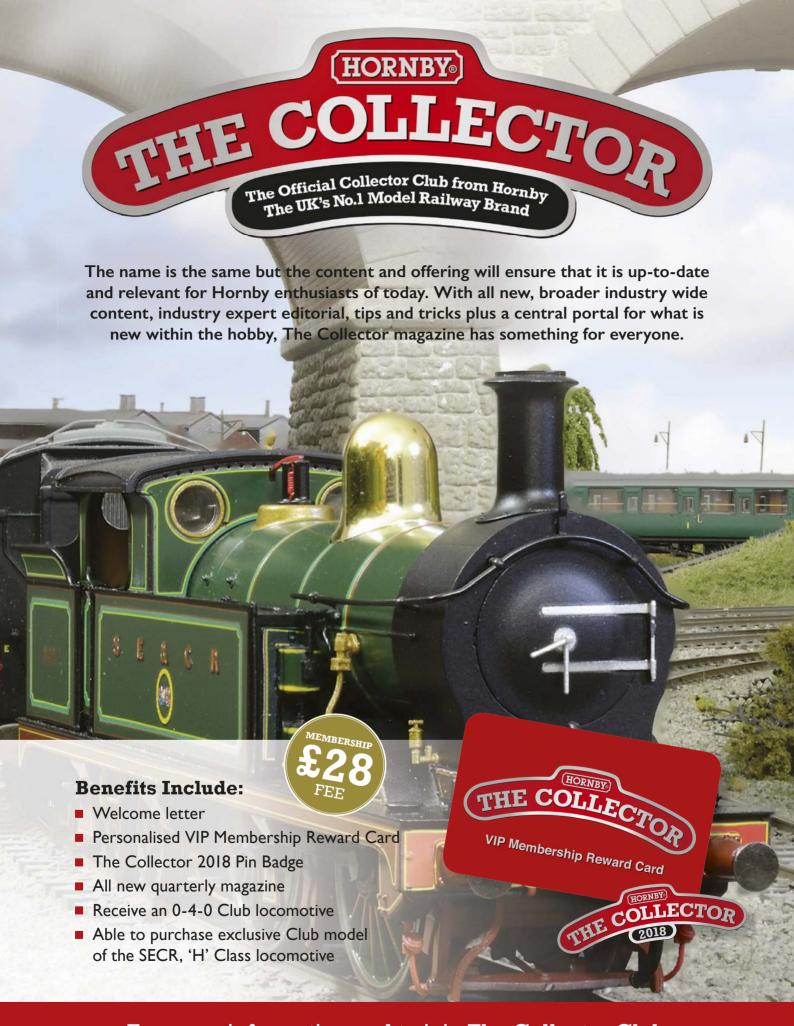
FACT FILE

I MANUFACTURER Graham

I MODEL BR Mk.1 Carflat I PRICE RRP £29.95 each I PHOTOGRAPHS Andv

I WORDS Howard Smith

datafile (BASICS Manufacturer: Graham Farish Models Produced: BR brown with BR1 bogies vacuum-braked (377-400U), BR blue with BR1 bogies vacuum-braked (377-4002V), BR blue Motorail BR1 bogies vacuum-braked (377-4003W), BR blue Motorail B4 bogies vacuum-braked with air brakes in accessory bag (377-4004X), BR bauxite B4 bogies air-braked (377-4005Y), Railease yellow BR1 bogies air-braked (377-4006Z) **RRP:** £29.95 each Gauge/scale: 9mm gauge, 1:148 scale N **Era:** 5 to 9 Company/Operator: BR Region: All Weight: 12g Chassis: Moulded ABS plastic Minimum Curve Radius: N/A Couplings: NEM Standard Buckeye



For more information and to join The Collector Club visit www.hornby.com/thecollector or call the dedicated club team on 01843 233512

NEW GEAR



pins allowing a small amount of compensation to improve running. A double-sided A4 colour instruction sheet is included. The kit is available post-free from Connoisseur Models, 1 Newton Cottages, Nr. Weobley, Herefordshire, HR4 80X

Price RRP £16.00 W www.jimmcgeown.com

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00 3DK VICTORIAN FACTORY AND **ENTRANCE WALL KIT**

Justify goods sidings on your model railway easily with this set of print-athome kits that can be downloaded from the website of Canadian manufacturer 3DK. Released one at a time, starting with its 00-24 Brick Arch and Walling, the kits are designed to allow building of a modular factory, large or small, Victorian factories often had decorative entrances and 3DK's kit is based on British examples. When assembled, the wall measures 45mm high to wall tops and 130mm high to the top of the arch. The kit can be printed numerous times, allowing a custom length of wall to suit your needs. Alternative door styles and colours are included with the kit, as are photographic instructions. See its website for future releases.

Price 00-24 £3.53 W www.3dk.ca

MODELLBAHN UNION A00238 NARROW GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE

Representing a 'Feldbahn' - German term for a field railway - locomotive, this highly-detailed 3D printed locomotive can be added to overgrowth to depict an abandoned narrow gauge railway. Narrow gauge field railways were usually closed to the public and would transport agricultural or industrial raw materials, such as wood, peat, stone, earth and sand, Also included are two unpainted bufferstops. The locomotive measures 26mm x 6mm x 10mm.

€7.99

www.en.dm-toys.de

KS LASER DESIGNS KS31-01-02 **SMALL INDUSTRIAL UNIT**

Described as a small industrial unit, but equally of use as a small ambulance or fire station, KS Laser Designs' latest kit uses a combination of laser-cut wooden and plastic parts of varying thicknesses. Requiring only a PVA-based glue for assembly, edges are of tongue and groove construction for easy of assembly.

Price £19.20

NATURAL SCENICS CR25 RESISTOR PACK AND 3MM MIXED LED PACK

Despite its name, scenic supply specialist Natural Scenics also retails LEDs and resistors to illuminate accessories on your layout. Its 3mm mixed LED packs contain four green, red and yellow colours to illuminate anything from signals to traffic lights and fairground rides. Don't forget to use the correct resistors, available in a separate pack of 10. See its new website, going live soon.

SCENICS

Resistors £0.55, LEDs £2.75

www.naturalscenicselectronics.co.uk



NATURAL SCENICS

Value 100K

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HORNBY HC8040 SET OF 4 SCHARFENBERG COUPLINGS

Hornby's Scharfenberg coupling set, a popular accessory upgrade for modern multiple units, is back in stock with its retailers. The prototype couplings manufactured by Dellner are fitted to many current multiple unit classes, such as Class 221, 333 and 350. The pack of four working couplings are fitted with NEM sockets to permit direct replacement of standard tension lock couplings.

Price £7.80

W www.hornby.com



CLICK HERE FOR CONTENTA close-up look at Hatton's first directly produced steam locomotive, the SE&CR P Class







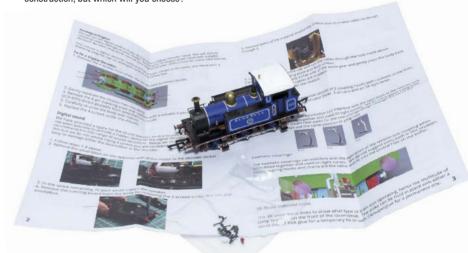
I'm sure the South Eastern & Chatham Railways letter classification for locomotives didn't have such an intent, but maybe the 'P' stands for pretty? Wainwright's diminutive locomotive certainly is, especially when resplendent in its fully lined pre-grouping livery. Dating from the end of the Edwardian era the eight P Class locomotives were built in 1909 and 1910 at the company's Ashford works for light branch duties and fitted with pushpull working equipment. All of the class survived into British Railways ownership and withdrawn from 1955-61 before half of the class came to survive in preservation. For a small class they can certainly show a wide range of liveries and it's easy to see how Hatton's could choose twelve distinctly different models for the initial launch of their first directly produced locomotive.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The models are well-protected inside the sturdy card box, and there's a useful full-colour instruction sheet showing how to fit decoders, sound and the detail accessories. I opened the box with 'Bluebell' first; what a striking livery and so well applied. That's not to decry the olive green liveried Southern model or even the industrial usage 'Pride of Sussex', as they are of commendable accuracy and quality of finish. 'Bluebell' was so-named and liveried as one of the first locomotives to work on the Bluebell Railway in 1960 and it is in the current preserved livery with the tankside Bluebell Railway crest that Hatton's has produced the model.

Aside from the striking colour, the lining quality is excellent. The locomotive frames are a deep redbrown colour and the domes, painted in a dulled brass metallic tone, add a touch of copper to the chimney top and some bright brass around the cab's spectacle windows. Even after taking close-up shots I had not realised, until speaking to Hatton's again, that inside the cab, behind the doors, the rear face has lined panels either side of the bunker hole. That's not even

Every one's a winner! Liveries aside, each is distinguished by small variations in construction, but which will you choose?



A comprehensive instruction sheet explains how to fit a wide range of accessories.

FACT FILE

I MANUFACTURER Hatton's I **MODELS** H4-P-04 A325 in Southern Railway green 1924-1937 H4-P-10 "Pride of Sussex" in Robertsbridge flour mill green 1961-1971 H4-P-12 323 in Bluebell Railway lined blue - as preserved I PRICE RRP £99.00 I WORDS AND **PHOTOGRAPHS** Andy York

the finest livery in the range, I have seen the decoration sample of the SE&CR lined version and that is another step onwards again.

To more mundane liveries now, the tone and density of the livery on A325 is very good and the accuracy of the hand-lettered scroll on the tank of *Pride of Sussex* is absolutely correct. All of the handrails and their supports, the smokebox door handles, pumps, pipes and finer fittings are exquisitely fine, whilst not feeling as though they will disintegrate with handling. It seems too churlish to raise such a minor point, but a slight moulding seam shows on the front of the tank and along the front of the boiler. However, it's otherwise a minor freckle on a beauty queen.

At 120g the model is capable of handling four or five Mk1 coaches. In a small locomotive the motor and gear design have to be considered to keep a clear cab and daylight beneath the front of the boiler, and so the small 5-pole motor with a transversely orientated circuit board with a 6-pin decoder socket makes the best use of the space. Hatton's own direct 6-pin decoder comfortably fits within the tank side.



On test through second radius curves the model is a smooth and quiet performer, with haulage capabilities on a par with what may be expected of the real thing.

Access to the model to fit a decoder is by two screws at each end; an easy process which means that a decoder can be fitted in a couple of minutes. Sound installation requires removing the weight from the opposite side of the motor from the decoder socket and to mount the decoder inside the cab.

VARIETY

The P Class had quite a few differences between locomotives over its life, and Hatton's has chosen to capture many of these variations. For instance, A325 features the lower tanks and cab roof, bottle-shaped buffer shanks, bars on the rear cab spectacle windows, a higher rear steam heat pipe and two rows of rivets on the smokebox (front and back). *Pride of Sussex* has the slightly taller cab with taller tanks, stepped buffers, plain rear windows and the two rows of smokebox rivets. 'Bluebell' has the short cab and tanks, stepped buffers, plain windows and just the rear row of rivets on the smokebox.

OPINION

It's little more than ten years ago when the first UK RTR locomotive breached the psychological £100 barrier. Hatton's P Class is just inside that limit, but I can't see many more products of this quality sitting below the ton and my overriding feeling is that this model really is worth that. Prices may have nearly doubled in ten years, but so has the quality of what we can now get. How good is it? Very good indeed. I wouldn't hang about if you want a lined SE&CR one, though!

Beauties from any angle. The first three liveries are sure to be popular, and Hatton's has even more in the offing. Act quickly to avoid disappintment.



Fine details are readily apparent, but there's even more to see within the cab.

A cutaway showing the ease of fitting a 6-pin decoder.



datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Hatton's Model Railways

 $\textbf{Catalogue Refs:} \ \text{H4-P-01-178 in SE\&CR lined green 1910-1911 \& }$

as preserved

H4-P-02 753 in SE&CR lined green 1909-1911 & as preserved H4-P-03 754 in SE&CR wartime grey 1910-1920s

H4-P-04 A325 in Southern Railway green 1924-1937

H4-P-05 1555 in Southern Railway black 1938-1948

H4-P-06 1558 in Southern Railway black with Sunshine lettering 1941-

1953

H4-P-07 31027 in BR black with early emblem 1949-1961

H4-P-08 31323 in BR black with late crest 1959-1961

H4-P-09 "Pioneer II" in Bowaters Paper Mill lined green 1958-1968 H4-P-10 "Pride of Sussex" in Robertsbridge flour mill green 1961-1971

H4-P-11 27 "Primrose" in Bluebell Railway lined black 1961-1963

H4-P-12 323 in Bluebell Railway lined blue - as preserved

RRP: £99.00

Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76 scale 00

Era: 2 to 9

Company/Operator: SECR/SR/BR(S)

Region: SR Weight: 120g

Body and chassis: Diecast metal and plastic.

Wheels: RP25 wheel profiles

DCC: 6-pin DCC socket in tanks

Couplings: NEM pockets with tension lock couplings

Motor: 5 pole motor

Pickups: All wheel pickup

Chassis: Weights within boiler for maximum adhesion

Accessories: Steam heat pipes, cosmetic couplings, oil cans, SR route

indicator discs and a SR style red-bodied lamp

1 NEW MODELS

DARSTAED BR MK1 COACHES



Long after the golden era of O gauge tinplate, one manufacturer, Darstaed Vintage Trains, has kept with the philosophy of the period by making models aimed at the collector and tinplate enthusiast. The most ubiquitous of the post-war coaching stock - the BR Mk.1 is a fitting start, despite numerous attempts from other manufacturers.

Arriving individually or as a boxed set of four models, packaging is functional, but provides adequate protection in the event of a mishap. When bought as a group of four, the blue boxes are contained within a larger blue box, complete with carry handle. You could carry a rake of eight coaches, in two boxes with two hands - handy for those long running sessions.

From the box, my eyes were drawn to the underscale 22mm diameter wheels. This equates to the 3ft wheels as fitted to the very different B4 bogies, instead of the 3ft 6in wheels as fitted to the BR1 and Commonwealth bogies produced by Darstaed. That said, the axles are substantial and the wheelsets fit into heavy duty top hat brass bearings. Bogie sides are cast with bogie frames stamped in metal and compensation via a centre screw allows the coaches to run over uneven track, particularly helpful for outdoor running.

The strength of the model continues with the underframe, also stamped to shape in traditional tinplate style. The depth of the underframe is overscale, but doesn't lack detail, with footsteps, battery boxes, a dynamo, vacuum brake cylinder and linkage screwed into place.

To the ends, sprung metal buffers feel like they can withstand a little mistreatment without coming loose, however, the mould lines to the buffer faces would have benefitted from the passing of a file before paint. Inter-connectivity between vehicles is provided courtesy of metal buckeye couplings from Kadee. Two screws to the underside of the coach allow three adjustable coupling distances should your track have exceptionally tight curves.

The coach roof can be removed by detaching the push-fit water pipes at either end and swinging



application of transfers is good. The thickness of paint is considerable, making it reasonably scratch-proof and ideal for outdoor running.



Pivoted corridor connections are fitted with magnets for a 'snap fit' and rubber surrounds provide an effective seal between coaches. A gangway end to cover the magnets will be sent free of charge with all sets of four coaches.

FACT FILE

I MANUFACTURER Darstaed

Vintage Trains Ltd I MODEL Darstaed BR Mk.1

I PRICE RRP £189.00

I WORDS AND **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Howard Smith

them outwards. This provides access to the coach interior, which is detailed with coach seating and compartments. The seating inside is decorated with pattern overlays. Behind the seating on compartment walls, an overlay creates the illusion of lights, a mirror and luggage rack. In this respect, combined with the curtains printed over the windows, the interior detailing is better than Heljan's Mk.1. Interior lighting is made possible through the use of pickups on one bogie supplying power to an LED strip light that runs the full length of the coach above compartments.

For the Mk.1 purist, there have been more accurate representations, but this coach is certainly the most robust. With Dapol's Mk.1 release expected later this year, the choice of Mk.1 coaches in O gauge is set to grow further still. Will the wait be worthwhile? ■

datafile

)BASICS

Manufacturer: Darstaed Vintage Trains Ltd

RRP: £189.00

Gauge/scale: 32mm gauge, 1:43.5 scale 0

Era: 4 to 8

Company/Operator: BR

Region: All

Weight: 1021g

Body and chassis: etched brass

Minimum Curve Radius: N/A

Wheel Profile: NEM 310

Couplings: Kadee Buckeye



FINESCALE 'O' GAUGE MK1 COACHES









Super detailed interiors with lights



Magnetic coupling corridor connections



Working brake light on brake ends

NOW IN STOCK - SET A (CK, SK & 2 x BSK) AT £750

Available in Blood & Custard, Southern Green, Blue Grey, Chocolate & Cream & Maroon



Brake 2nd Compo



Composite



2nd class

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER AT £189 EACH

Coach types as pictured below, plus also Restaurant 1st, Restaurant Open 2nd, Restaurant Open 1st, Brake End Composite and 1st Class



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№ NEW MODELS

HATTON'S MODEL RAILWAYS O GAUGE 50T WARWELL



The Warwell wagon was designed by the Ministry of Supply during WW2 to transport US Sherman tanks around Britain's rail network ahead of Operation Overlord. The size of the Sherman tank and our loading gauge meant it was necessary to accommodate the vehicle within a lowered well between the bogies. 200 wagons were built for the MoS by Gloucester Carriage & Wagon Co. (100), Head Wrightson (75) and the Southern Railway (25). The military retained many wagons after the war but a number were sold to the LMS and have, over the years, seen adaptation and modification to produce a significant variety of forms. The wagons had an operational lifespan of 75 years, so it will be of interest to modellers of the contemporary railway too.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

You don't even have to open the parcel to know something of substance has arrived - these models weigh in at an impressive 492g and they feel like value for money. They're not just bigger than their OO relatives but are far better. The wow factor, for me, is evident in the ends of the wagons with superb detail, variations in sprung buffer types and chain and brake piping according to era. The screw jacks look as if they could be adjusted - they can't, but I felt compelled to try given their finesse. The screw-link couplings work too.

The livery application is excellent with good density of printing of the lettering, nicely blackened wheels and good underframe detail with brake rodding and cylinders as separate parts. As the model is taken out of the box there is a separately bagged timber section that fits into the recess beneath the deck of the wagon, giving a representation of the wooden deck from underneath. This is supplied as a separate fit part, as the acetate clamshell packaging of the wagon has a raised section that fits into the recess to reduce movement whilst in transit.

I can vouch for their running characteristics too, having played with a rake of the pre-production models on Hatton's test tracks. There is no need for

FACT FILE

I MANUFACTURER Hattons I CATALOGUE REF H7-WW-703 Warwell wagon 50t with diamond frame bogies WW36 in War Department livery (LNER) H7-WW-708 Warwell wagon 50t with Gloucester GPS bogies MODA95511 in MOD 1970s olive I PRICE RRP £85.00 I WORDS AND **PHOTOGRAPHS** Andy York

DCC sound with these wagons on the move, as the mass gives aural pleasure over track joints and through pointwork.

All the detail captured on the OO gauge models is there, and more besides. The die-cast metal deck, which gives the model its heft, nicely captures the wood grain of the flat deck; the raised ridges for grip while loading vehicles and the recessed eyes for chains or straps.

VARIETY

As with the 4mm scale model, Hatton's have accommodated several and significant variations in the tooling spanning the life of these long-lived wagons.

As built, the Warwell had diamond frame bogies, which are nicely portrayed including the sloping axlebox covers and a good depth to the recess for the springs. From the late-1970s the remaining military wagons had replacement Gloucester plate bogies that are well captured on the appropriate models. In both cases the bogies have coiled springs, rather than a moulded representation.

Earlier models feature the original style of buffer housing and the OCEM buffers with the levelled off top to allow the bridging plates and ramps to be used







Blackened wheels and sprung bogies.

for driving vehicles along the length of the train whilst loading. Later models have replacement buffer housing and oval buffers. Each style of buffer is sprung on the models.

The early models are available in War Department livery and LMS, LNER and GWR loaned liveries through the BR years in Gulf Red and BR Grey and later WD olive green liveries through to the present day.

Hatton's has released ten number and livery variations. I'll be interested to see if additional variants made for the OO modeller, such as the bolster decks are produced.

OPINION

I'm very impressed with these wagons; so much so that I am tempted to get a couple to create a diorama scene loading some 1:43 scale Shermans and a few figures to supervise loading.

datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Hatton's Model Railways

Catalogue Refs:

H7-WW-701 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES MS.1 IN WAR DEPARTMENT LIVERY (GWR) H7-WW-702 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES WW.55 IN WAR

DEPARTMENT LIVERY (LMS) H7-WW-703 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES WW36 IN WAR

DEPARTMENT LIVERY (LNER) H7-WW-704 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES MODA95560 IN

MOD 1970S OLIVE H7-WW-705 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES M360333 IN BR **GREY**

H7-WW-706 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES M360329 IN BR **GULF RED**

H7-WW-707 DIAMOND FRAME BOGIES ADRW96501 IN BR **ENGINEERS YELLOW** H7-WW-708 GLOUCESTER GPS BOGIES MODA95511 IN

MOD 1970S OLIVE H7-WW-709 GLOUCESTER GPS BOGIES MODA95537 IN

MOD 1990S OLIVE

H7-WW-710 GLOUCESTER GPS BOGIES MODA95536 IN MOD 2000S OLIVE

RRP: RRP £85.00 Gauge/scale: O gauge / 1:43.5

Era: 3 to 9

Company/Operator: WD/LMS/LNER/GW/BR

Region: All Weight: 492a

Body: Die-cast metal Chassis: Die-cast metal

VITAL STATISTICS

DIMENSIONS	1:1	1:76 MODEL	+/-
Length (over headstocks)	47' 0"	329.3mm 329.3mm	
Width	8' 3"	57.8mm 57.8mm	
Wheel diameter	2' 9"	19.3mm 19.3mm	
Wheel to Back-to-Backs		14.4 to 14.5 mm	

THE LONDON ODELLING



Now in its 19th year, our 'Ally Pally' show is better than ever, with more than 100 exhibitors and over 40 hand-picked layouts to peruse. Here are a few highlights to whet your appetites...



Kensington Addison Road (0)

Twickenham MRC's ambitious model captures this West London station in the mid-1920s. Freight and passenger services run in pre- and post-grouping liveries, but keep an eye out for the 'Sunny South Special', which linked the industrial cities of the north with south coast resorts.



In a nutshell

- Visitors can enjoy over 40 layouts, each hand-picked by the Model Railway Club.
- There are over 100 exhibitors, including a massive selection of trade stands dealing in all scales, gauges and eras, and expert demonstrators who can answer your questions and boost your modelling skills.
- A free shuttle bus from Wood Green Underground station delivers you straight to the venue. The last bus from Alexandra Palace departs at 17:15 each day.
- The 2018 London Festival of Railway Modelling takes place at Alexandra Palace on March 24th - 25th. Visit www.world-ofrailways.co.uk for further information, and to book your tickets.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Brighton East (EM)

Dave and Matt Smith's layout imagines a vibrant future for a long-defunct branch line. Scratch-built buildings are based on local prototypes, and the substantial chalk cutting is a nice piece of work.



Didsbury Green (00)
Phil Parker is adding the final details to his portable project layout, but - fingers crossed this will be the first chance to see it running. It'll be on the BRM stand all weekend.



Harlyn Pier (0)

Peter Beckley's North Cornwall harbour scene makes the most of its modest dimensions, and all the coastal details are present and correct.



Mostyn (P4)

Already a hit on the exhibition circuit, Barrowmore MRG's diesel and electric era layout contains a good deal to admire – realistic line speeds, prototypical formations and enough stock variations to keep you entertained for some time.

Essential information

When? March 24 - 25w, 2018

Where? Alexandra Palace, London, N22 7AY

How much? Advance ticket prices (available via www.world-of-railways.co.uk) BRM Subscribers £10, Adults £11, Children (5-16) £6, Families (two adults and up to three children) £36. On the door prices: Adults £12, Children (5-16) £6, Families (two adults and up to three children) £36

Pre-booking www.world-of-railways.co.uk





EXHIBITIONS

MARCH 10 - MARCH 11

East Anglian Model Railway Exhibition The Britten Arena Wood Green Animal Charity Centre, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire PE29 2NH

Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1700 Sunday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £7.00 Child £4.00 Family £20.00 (2+2) W: www.stneotsmrc.com T: 01480 353607

MARCH 17 - MARCH 18

Perth Green Model Railway Exhibition
(Jarrow) Perth Green Community Centre

(Jarrow) Perth Green Community Centre, Inverness Road, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear NE32 4AQ

Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1700 Sunday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £5.00

Child £3.00 Family £12.00

T: www.perthgreenmrc.org

Dorset Model Railway Exhibition

Queen Elizabeth School, Blandford Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 4DT **Opening Times:** Saturday 1000 - 1630

Sunday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £6.00 Children Free T: 01823 480097

CONTACT US

DIARY DATES BRM, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire. PE10 9PH

WEBSITE

Enter your event on our website at www.world-of-railways.co.uk

Closing date for the May issue is 23rd March

Suitable for disabled visitors.

Whilst BRM makes every attempt to include all Diary Date events and exhibition dates, occasionally, due to limited space, we may have to leave some out. Gold (paid for) listings are always included.

Diary Dates entries are published free of charge to bona fide model railway clubs and societies.

MARCH 24 - MARCH 25

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Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1700 Sunday 1000 - 1630

Prices: Adult £11.00 Child £6.00 Advance tickets on: T: 0844 5814972

ΔPRII 14

Cambridge Model Railway Exhibition

Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston, Camabridge CB22 3BP

Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £4.50 Concession £3.50 Child £2.00

(Parties with 2 + children and at least 1 adult, 1 child admitted FREE) Under 5 Free

W: www.cambridge31a-mrc.org.uk

MAY 4 - MAY 6

Bristol Model Railway Exhibition

Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 3JB

Opening Times: Friday 1300 - 1900 Saturday 1000 - 1830

Sunday 1000 - 1700 **Prices:** Adult £7.50 Young Adult (12 - 16)

Accompanied children FREE

W: www.bristolmodrailex.co.uk

OTHER EVENTS

MARCH 17 - MARCH 18

Meridienne - Midlands Garden Rail Show/ Large Scale Model Rail

Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1XN

Opening Times:

Saturday/Sunday 1000 - 1600

APRIL 01

Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club Ltd - Toy & Transport Collectors Fair

Polegate Community Centre, Polegate, Eastbourne BN26 6QF T: 01323 500001

APRIL 07 - APRIL 08

Severn Valley Open House Weekend

Severn Valley Railway, Number One, Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR

Prices: Pre-book & save:

Adults £19.50, Child/Member £13.00 Family £55.00 On the day: Adults £21.00, Child/Member £14.00

Child/Member £14.00, Family £59.00

W: www.svr-vlo.org.uk T: 01562 757900

TRAIN & TOY FAIRS

MARCH 25

Jim Corr Toy & Train Fair - Carlisle The Shepherds Inn, Rosehill Estate, Rosehill, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 2RS

Opening Times: Sunday 1100 - 1500

Prices: Adult/Senior £3.00 Child £2.00 (under 16)

Early bird tickets: Adult/Senior £5.00 Child £3.00 under 16

T: 07504035955

MARCH 28

Joe Lock Toy & Train Fair - South Croydon St John's Community Hall, Selsdon, Croydon, London, CR2 8DD Opening Times: Wed 1800 - 2000 Prices: Admission £1.00

T: 07866 641215

MARCH 30

Barry Stockton Train &
Toy Collectors Fair - Southport

Splash World, Dunes Leisure Centre, Esplanade, Southport, Merseyside PR8 1RX **Opening Times:** Friday 1030 -1430 **Prices:** Adult £2.00 Child £0.50 **T:** 0151 334 3362

APRIL 02

Toy & Train Fair - Bridgnorth

Leisure Centre, High Town, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4ER **Opening Times:** Monday 1030 - 1500 **Prices:** Admission £2.00 **T:** 01270 652773 Tony Oakes

APRIL 0

Joe Lock Toy & Train Fair - Theydon Bois The Village Hall, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex CM16 7ER Opening Times: Thursday 1900 - 2100 Prices: Admission £1 T: 07866 641215

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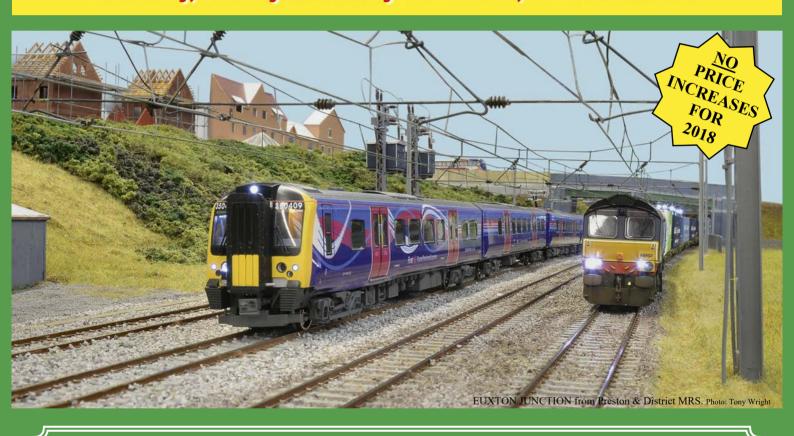
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Saturday 17th March 2018 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

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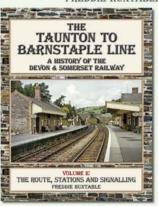




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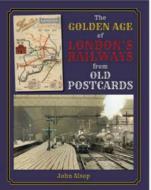
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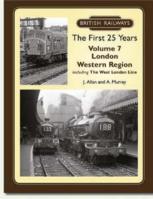
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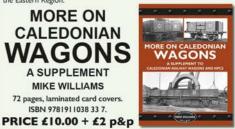
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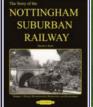
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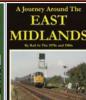
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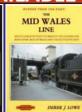
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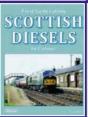
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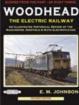










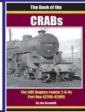
















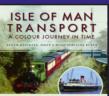










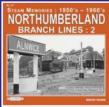


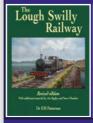




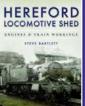


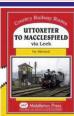












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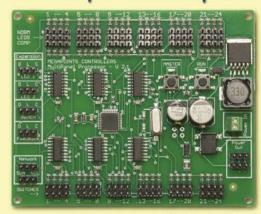
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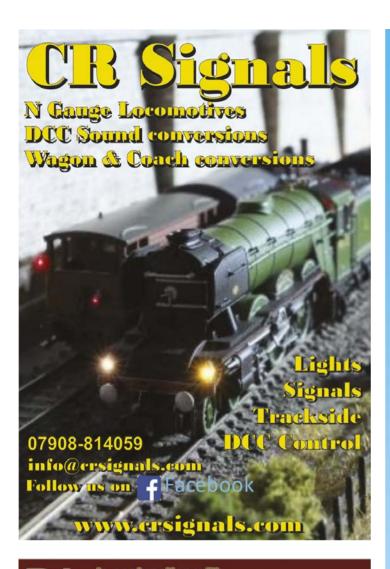


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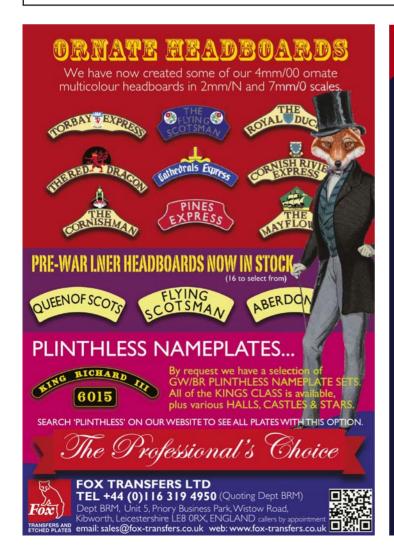


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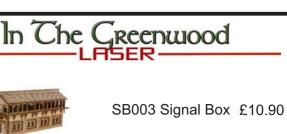


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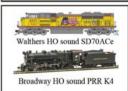
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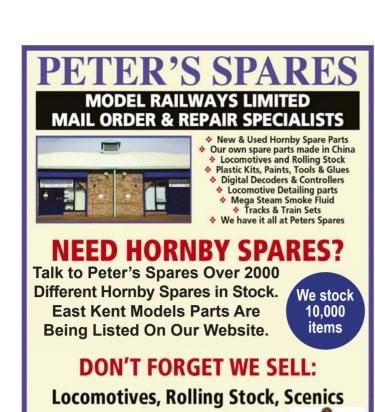
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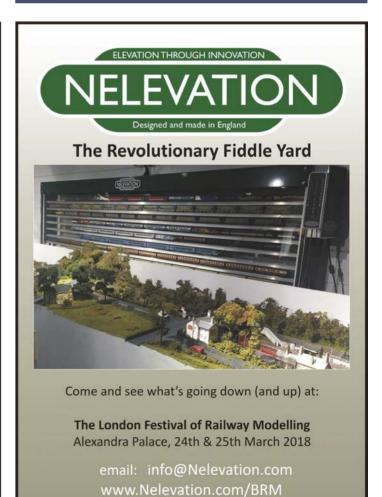
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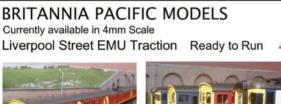
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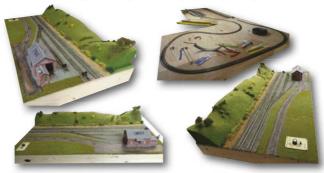
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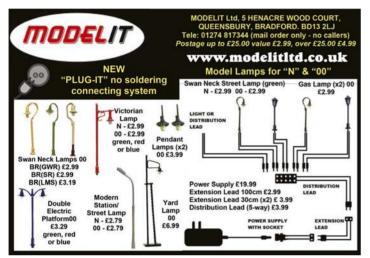


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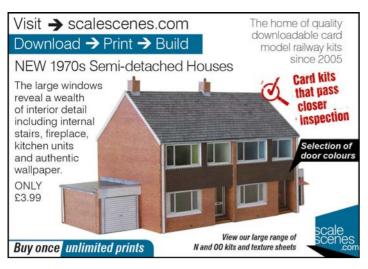


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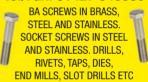
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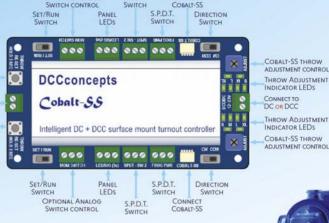
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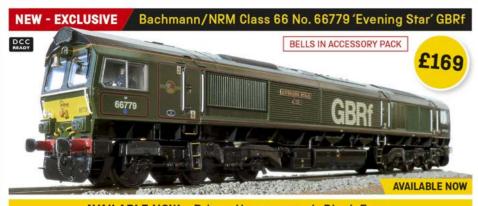
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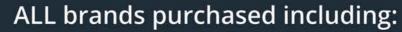
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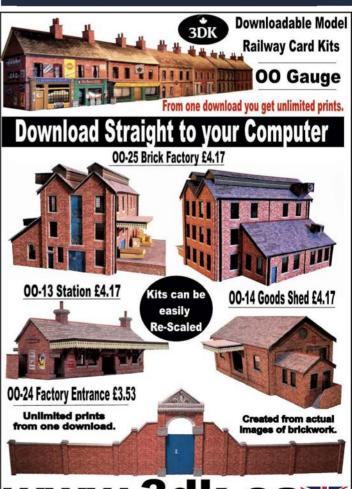
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TAIL LAMP

Phil Parker suggests that we should stop worrying about every last rivet and take a look at the whole of our models instead...

hat makes a model railway look good? Is it the fine collection of mint, highly detailed locomotives attached to pristine rolling stock? Or is it, as I like to think, the overall scene - buildings, scenery and trains all forming a harmonious picture with no one part catching the eye?

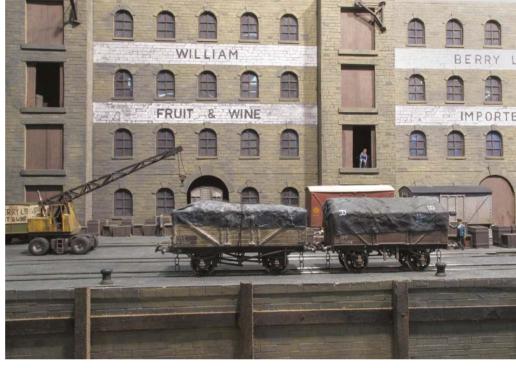
Years of standing behind my own layout at exhibitions suggest that when people look at a layout in real life, they see the whole thing, not a collection of individual models. We might build each item on its own, but then, like completing a jigsaw, the piece is taken from the workbench and added to the greater whole. I'm usually complimented on weathering applied consistently over the whole layout, not on a specific model on it.

A good example of this is Peter Denny's classic layout 'Buckingham' last seen in March's BRM. It positively reeks of traditional steam railway, evoking the atmosphere of an age now past living memory. Despite its age, Denny produced a result that most of us can only dream of, but there is a catch. Look at the rolling stock. It's not perfect, at least not in the sense that a cheap ready-to-run wagon would be. Take a modern private owner wagon and stand it on the track in Buckingham yard - it would simply look wrong. The mouldings would be too crisp, the colours too bright.

How come? Surely the "perfect" plastic wagon is better? On its own, that's true, but in the context of the layout it simply doesn't fit in.

How does that help us? My suggestion is to stop worrying and frothing about the latest mega-quality ready-to-run. The truth is, as this gets better then it just shows up the deficiencies in the rest of our modelling. Before you rush to thunder online about a moulded handrail, think about where you will using the model. How closely will you be looking at the model for a start?

In this respect, model magazines with ever better photography haven't helped. We are presented with super close-ups of models shown many times life-size in the news and



Number-shaped blobs of paint are so much cheaper and easier to apply than transfers, at least as far as I am concerned, but give everything a coat of dirt and no-one notices

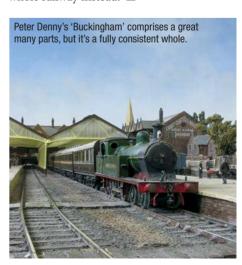
reviews sections. Readers are encouraged to ohh and ahh over perfect panel lines and expensively, separately-fitted details.

Move to the layout features, though, and the camera takes in a wider scene. Instead of a gleaming white background, views of locomotives can be blocked by scenery or shown at an angle that doesn't highlight all the details. What you won't see, because they don't make it past the editors, are perfect models sitting on track ballasted with pebbles from a garden centre or passing by hillsides covered in colours we politely refer to as "radioactive green".

So, I suggest that we worry less about the parts and focus on the whole. None of my kit-built locomotives are as perfect as the ones coming out of China, but I still like and run them. Worse (you may need to be sitting down for this), none of my wagons have proper numbers on them. I hate applying fiddly transfers, so don't bother. Vaguely number-shaped blobs of off-white paint

followed by a dose of dirt are enough for me. And no-one ever notices.

So, run your railway. Use those older models, even if they have been superseded by something better. Stop fretting about the teeny tiny details and enjoy modelling the whole railway instead.





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Mk3 Coaches	hattons.co.uk/oxmk3	£29	Jan 2016							

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