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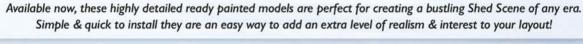


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IN THIS EPISODE...

WE ENJOY THE BLACK COUNTRY SCENERY IN 'ELMFIELD' (N), WE CLEAN UP THE TRACK ON OUR PROJECT LAYOUT, WE UNBOX NEW GEAR AND WE EXPLAIN THE SIMPLE TECHNIQUES OF BASIC LAYOUT WIRING.



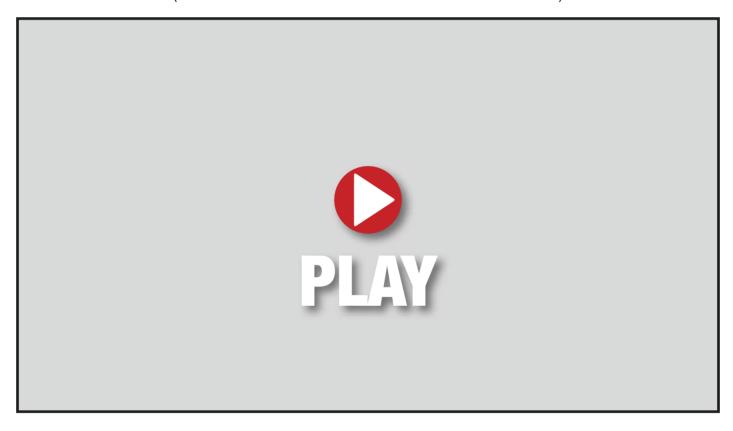
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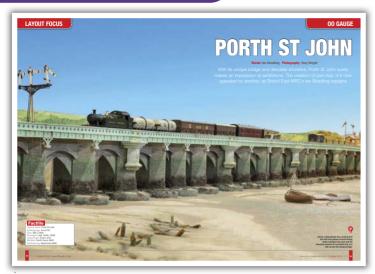


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CONTENTS



With its unique bridge and desolate shoreline, Porth St John surely makes an impression at exhibitions. The creation of one club, is it now operated by another, as

Bristol East MRC's Ian Stradling explains



Phil Parker opened a Slater's 0 gauge wagon kit expecting to find plastic bits and pieces. He got a lot more than he bargained for...



Providing two decades of sales, weathering and customisation services to modellers worldwide, Chris Yates' business started from humble beginnings in a chicken shed.



Big kids at heart, Andy McVittie and Phil Parker enjoy a day out at the seaside, although most of it enjoying the incredible exhibits at the Brighton Toy Museum...

LAYOUTS

PORTH ST JOHN (00)

Its eye-catching bridge is a splendid centrepiece, but there's so much more to see on this 1930s layout. Bristol East MRC shows us around.

AMBLESIDE (00)
The Elizabethan Railway Society's layout ticks many boxes, but it seems that the best is yet to come. Its three storey signal box is a great feature in the meantime.

56 A modern image layout that's unafraid to add plenty of scenery and greenery. A grand job from Bradford MRC, with lots of trains running for good measure.

HEBBLE VALE GOODS – PART TWO (EM)

Karl Crowther follows up last month's coverage, with a detailed look at the stock that operates on his layout and advice for improving with your own stonework.

82 As spotted by Phil Parker on his recent trip to Canada, Michael Culham presents a very accomplished late 50s Western Region scene.

PRACTICAL BRM

A MULTI-MEDIA MASTERPIECE
Phil Parker builds a Slaters Conflat
'A' container wagon kit, but wonders
if he'll be able to see all the details.

40 MAKE YOUR FIRST PLASTIC KIT All modelling journeys begin somewhere and Phil Parker is on hand to make sure you don't trip up, with useful tips for building a basic plastic kit.

52 FIT AN ELECTRONIC FLYWHEEL
A little extra momentum can come in very handy, as Michael Russell explains how to improve the running of old or badly running stock.

G4 UPGRADE YOUR AUTOCOACH
The Hornby autocoach hails from the 1980s. However, Phil Parker gives it a thoroughly 21st century makeover.

BATCH PAINT FIGURES

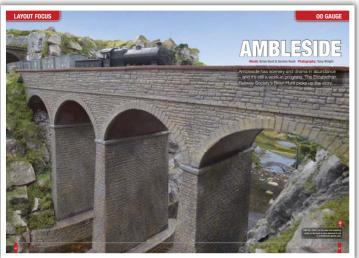
Banish badly painted model railway figures forever, with Kevin Phare's easy to follow artistic advice.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

NEWS AND GOODS INWARDS
Essential modelling tools and layout accessories, DCC ground signals, new arrivals from Hornby and Bachmann with a distinctly Southern flavour and much more.

100 BACHMANN LBSCR H2
ATLANTIC
Graham Muspratt enjoys
the smooth running and elegant details in
Bachmann's depiction of this Brighton Line
stalwart.

92



Ambleside has scenery and drama in abundance - and it's still a work-in progress. The Elizabethan Railway Society's Brian Hunt picks up the story...



Michael Russell's mission to improve locomotive running continues, with practical advice to add momentum to your models when required.



Graham Muspratt dives into the details in Bachmann's model of this hero of the London to Brighton line. A must-buy for LBSR, SR and BR(s) modellers.



Keeping your track clean is the key to smooth operations. Howard Smith appraises several of the commerical solutions available, with prices to suit all pockets.

TMC PLATE AND BOLSTER **WAGONS**

Bachmann manufactured, TMC retailed and finely detailed in all 13 iterations. Andy York just needs to decide which ones he's going to keep.

TRACK CLEANING RANGE ROUND-UP With many solutions addressing the same issue, Howard Smith looks at the pros and cons of commonly available track cleaning products.

BACHMANN MOTORAIL CARFLATS Roll back the years, and the opportunity to take your car on the train. Andy York dons a windscreen protector and rates this utilitarian unit.

FEATURES

TMC INTERVIEW Howard Smith meets with Chris Yates of TMC, and finds a well-stocked model shop and a weathering business going from strength to strength.

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM Phil Parker and Andy McVittie take a trip to the Brighton Toy Museum, with rare playthings and locomotive delights aplenty, and footage of their fabulous model railway on your free DVD.

Phil Parker discovers to his entire delight that modelling imitation really is the sincerest form of flattery, with several layouts in circulation that have used his own projects as inspiration.

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- Elmfield (N)
- Unboxing a Janus
- Track cleaning tips
- Toy Museum trainset
- DCC layout wiring explained



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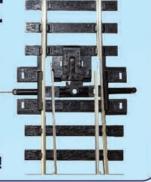
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I begin on a gloomy note this month, with Allan Downes passing away shortly before we went to press. A prodigious contributor to RMweb and the author of a great many magazine articles and assorted books, Allan will be remembered by many as one of the true giants of architectural modelling. His buildings really are the stuff of inspiration, and are all the more impressive for their cardboard construction – see his own website (www.allandownes.wixsite.com) or his gallery pages on RMweb for samples of his work. I've also included a pic here of 'Monks Bay' (as seen in BRM August 2014), which used many of his buildings to quite spectacular effect. Our sincere condolences to the Downes family in the meantime.

Back to business, and you might notice a few subtle changes in this month's edition. None are especially radical, but they are made in the name of improving how our articles are conveyed in both words and images. As a visual sort of chap, I'm especially pleased that our layout photographs have been given more room to breathe, but layout articles will be more commodious in general in future editions- and that can't really be a bad thing. Other tweaks will be ushered in over subsequent issues, so do please let me know what you think as we develop.

As far as this edition is concerned, we lead off with 'Porth St John'. Water effects on layouts can take many forms, but this seashore scene shows a tidal estuary where the water has largely gone out. I don't think I've seen anything like it anywhere else, but it's a fabulous effect regardless. 'Ambleside' is another stunner. It too has something of a centrepiece, in the shape of its unusual three storey signal box, but there's plenty more to admire in its depiction of Lake District scenery. Next stop is 'Titheridge Junction', a modern image layout with long rakes, trains

aplenty and gorgeous scenery. After that, Karl Crowther returns with a second look at 'Hebble Vale Goods' and the stock that rolls therein, then we round up with 'Gwendraeth'. A slight curve ball, this, in that it's a GWR layout built by one of our chums from across the pond. Speaking of which, I really must apologise to the proud Canadian owner, Michael Culham, for referring to him as a US modeller on the last issue's Next Month page. A cardinal sin if ever there was one, I'm assured, but he has been very nice about it!

Finally, a small plug for our digital endeavours. RMweb continues to be the fount of all railway knowledge, but the digital edition of BRM is soaring at the moment, thanks, no doubt, to the extra videos, image galleries and other goodies we're able to cram in – see www.pocketmags.com/brm for more. The regular BRM newsletter is similarly filled with good stuff, but is absolutely free. With that in mind, I encourage

you to head to the BRM page of www.worldof-railways.co.uk as quickly as your fingers can type. On that note, I'd better crack on with next month's issue...

Best Regards

Andy



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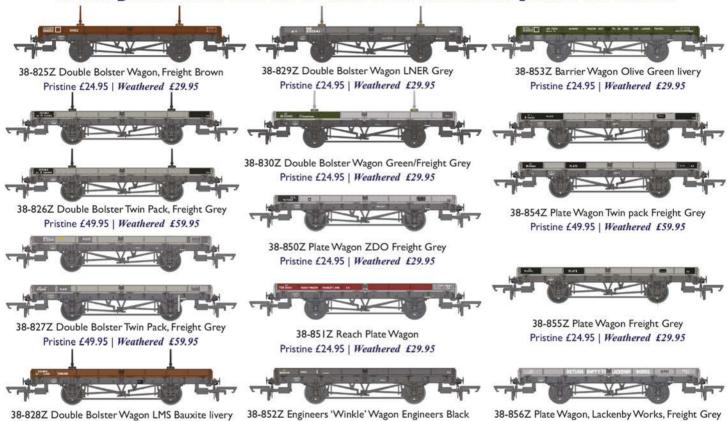
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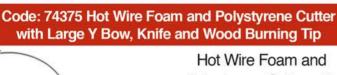


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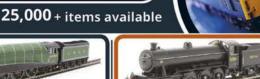
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BARGAIN







3920 Class O2/4 Tango 2-8-0 3962 in LNER black flush tender (Hel) (RRP £184.95). BARGAIN.



3922 Class O2/4 Tango 2-8-0 63975 in BR black late crest flush tender (Hel) (RRP £184.95)BARGAIN....£88



3923 Class O2/4 Tango 2-8-0 63982 in BR black late crest flush tender (Hel) (RRP £184.95).....BARGAIN....£88



3921 Class O2/4 Tango 2-8-0 63983 in BR black early crest flush tender (Hel) (RRP £184,95) .BARGAIN.



R3171 Class P2 2-8-2 2001 'Cock O' The North' in LNER



R3559 Class Q1 0-6-0 C24 in Southern Railway wartin





R3208 Class V Schools 4-4-0 30915 "Brighton" in BR Black early emblem (Hor) (RRP £139.99)BARGAIN...



R3279 County Class 4-6-0 1016 "County Of Hants" in BR Green early crest - Railroad range (Hor). £69.50



R3420 Drummond Class 700 0-6-0 30346 in BR black late crest (Hor) (RRP £124.99). BARGAIN £66 R3421 Drummond Class 700 0-6-0 30698 in BR Black early emblem (Hor (RBP £124.99).



BARGAIN
R3419 Drummond Class 700 0-6-0 693 in Southern
Railway black (Hor) (RRP £124.99) ... BARGAIN.
Railway black (Hor) (RRP £124.99) ... BARGAIN.
stepped tender (Hel) (RRP £184.95) .BARGAIN. ... 289 DC fitted (Dap).



uilt "West Country" 4-6-2 34096 "Trevone" in R3524 Rebuilt 'West Count BR green late crest (Hor) . .



Class 0-6-0T 1555 in SR black Egyptian



H4-P-001 SECR P Class 0-6-0T 178 in SE&CR full lined



H4-P-015 SECR P Class 0-6-0T 27 in SE&CR full lined



H4-P-007 SECR P Class 0-6-0T 31027 in BR black early







H4-P-013 SECR P Class 0-6-0T 5027 in ROD green (Ha





H4-P-002 SECR P Class 0-6-0T 753 in SE&CR full lined



H4-P-004 SECR P Class 0-6-0T A325 in SR lined Maunsel . £99



dard Class 3MT 2-6-2T 82020 in BR green late



...£69 32-353 Standard Class 4MT 2-6-4T 80135 in BR green late class 4MT 2-6-4T 80135 in BR green late crest (As Preserved) (Bac) (RRP £134.95)BARGAIN ...£99 1409 Class 14 D9531 in BR green - as preserved (Hel) £110



R3397 I MS S burban Passenger Train Pack - Ltd Diesel locos



2503 Class 05 Hunslet shunter "Cider Queen" in green wasp stripes (Hel) (RRP £129.95)BARGAIN... £69



2500 Class 05 Hunslet shunter D2574 in BR green (Hell



2523 Class 05 Hunslet shunter Departmental No.88 in BR green wasp stripes (Hel) (RRP £129.95)BARGAIN . . . £69









2910 Class 07 shunter 2993 in BR blue wasp stripes and





32-119 Class 08 S (RRP £124.95) . . .



R3484 Class 08 shunter 13363 in BR green red con



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



.

4D-012-007 Class 22 D6321 in BR green small yel panels and headcode boxes (Dap) 4D-012-007D Class 22 D6321 in BR green s

4D-012-009 Class 22 D6322 in BR green small yell-

codes (Dap).

4D-012-004 Class 22 D6325 in BR green no yellow pa

4D-012-006 Class 22 D6327 in BR blue small yellow

4D-012-008 Class 22 D6332 in BR blue (Dap)....£127.46 2655 Class 26/0 26008 in BR railfreight coal sector grey (Hel)...£104

2812 Class 28 CoBo D5710 in BR green no yellow

2814 Class 28 CoBo D5717 in BR green small yellow

3525 Class 35 Hymek 7011 in BR blue full yellow

Prices valid until 10/10/18

All prices correct when going to press. Errors excepted.



grey roof GAIN . £72

£127.46 £146.91

£127 48

£127.46

....2119

...£101

32-789 Class 37/0 37099 "Merl Evans 1947-2016" in Colar Rail Freight (Bac) NEW £135.9







32-389 Class 37/4 37421 in Colas Rail (Bac)



R3392TTS Class 40 40164 in BR blue - TTS sound fitted -Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £99.99)...BARGAIN....£74



32-482 Class 40 97407 'Aureol' in BR blue reathered (Bac) (RRP £179.95)

















R3572 Class 60 60087 "CLIC Sargent" in Colas Rail C149



40 in EWS - DCC sound fitted (Bac) . £225.2



4D-022-008 Class 68 68003 "Astute" in Direct Rail Services compass (Dap)... 4D-022-010S Class 68 68006 "Avenger" in Direct Rail Servi £131 7 ND-022-0105 Class 66 68006 Avenger in Direct re DCC sound fitted (Dap) ND-022-011S Class 66 68010 "Oxford Flyer" in Chilte Sound fitted (Dap)



31-590 Class 70 70015 in Freightliner air intake £144 modifications (Bac).



4D-006-001 Class 73 electro-diesel 73105 in BR large logo blue (Dap) (RRP £146.22)



4000 Hawker Siddeley Brush HS4000 "Kestrel" prototype diesel electric loco (Hel) (RRP £155) BARGAIN ... £12: Electric locos





7703 Class 77 EM2 Woodhead electric 27002 "Aurora" BR black - Ltd Ed for Olivias Trains (Hel)



7705 Class 77 EM2 Woodhead electric E27003 "Diana



7701 Class 77 EM2 Woodhead electric E27005 "Minerva" in BR green half yellow panels - Ltd Ed for Olivias in BR green half yellow | Trains (Hel) (RRP £165)BARGAIN. £129



7706 Class 77 FM2 Woodhead electric F27006 "Pandora (RRP £165).







9007 Metropolitan Bo-Bo electric 11 "George Romney" in London Transport maroon (HeI) (RRP £139.95)BARGAIN ...£74



9009 Metropolitan Bo-Bo electric 12 "Sarah Siddons in London Transport/Metropolitan (1990s preserved condition) (Hel) (RRP £139.95)BARGAIN...



9008 Metropolitan Bo-Bo electric 12 "Sarah Sidde Metropolitan (As currently preserved) (Hel) (RRP £139.95)BARGAIN





R3478 Class 43 HST train pack 43070 "The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers" & 43036 in2199 First Great Western (Hor)



32-290DS Class 101 2 car DMU in Network SouthEast passenger figures and DCC sound (Bac)......£254.96



.. £129.95



4D-009-001 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar' W55020 in BR green speed whiskers (Dap) £123.25



8920 Class 128 parcels DMU 55991 in BR blue yellow ends "Parcels Service" branding (Hel) (RRP £119.95)BARGAIN...£59



32-939DS Class 150 150236 in Arriva Trains Wales £297.46 passenger figures and DCC sound (Bac).



32-937 Class 150/2 2 car DMU 150202 in Regional Railways Centro blue stripe . (Bac) (RRP £164.95) . BARGAIN £96



nanking blue - Collectors Edition (Bac) £490 **EMUs**





NEW



32-370 Class 37/4 37405 in DRS Compass blue (Bac) £117









R3491 Class 42 Warship D805 "Benbow" in BR green Railroad Range (Hor) (RRP £64.99)...BARGAIN....



32-066 Class 43 North British (NBL) Warship D835 Pegasus' in BR Green Small Yellow Panel (Bac) . £118.96



31-659 Class 47/0 47001 in BR Blue - weathered (Bac)£144.44



32-818 Class 47/0 47245 in West Coast Railway Company £135.90

R3571 Class 50 D400 in BR blue - Class 50 50th



5311 Class 53 D0280 "Falcon" in BR two tone green - Ltd 31-679 Class 85 (AL5) Bo-Bo Electric E3095 BR Electric Ed (Hel) (RRP £125) BARGAIN £88 Blue small yellow panel (Bac) (RRP £139.95)BARGAIN £88



09:00 - 17:00 Mon - Sun Store:

Opening Hours



07:30 - 18:30 09:00 - 17:00 Mon - Sat Sun



31-427B Class 411 4-CEP 7106 in BR Blue & Grey (Bac)



Track Maintenance vehicles

ised OO Track Cleaner motorised cleaning heads &

Train sets - analogue

nd Rambler train set Class 0F 'Pug' 0-4-0ST in HR blue and open wagon (Hor) NEW





R9283 Thomas the Tank Engine starter Train Set (Hor)£55 Train sets - digital



R1126 Mixed Freight DCC digital train set Class 08 0-6-0 BR diesel electric loco, steam loco & 4 wagons (Hor) (RRP £264.99) BARGAIN.



R1125 Somerset Belle train set Class 3F 0-60 S&DJR 0-60 steam loco & 3 wagons - DCC control (Hor) (RRP £210.99)BARGAIN. £130



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



-601 60' ex-SECR Birdcage brake third lavatory 3518 £55.21



39-611 60' ex-SECR Birdcage composite 5453 in SR olive

representation of the Supertrain (Mur) NEW first open 5102 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW instrator van 5605 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW laurent car 5402 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW second open 5202 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW second open 5224 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW second open 5224 in CIE Supertrain (Mur) NEW



on 3rd class corridor in LNER teak (Bac) .£46.71 Wagons





£10.50 Granite" (Oxf) NEW. 4F-016-027 4-wheel bank £9.50 4F-013-040 4-wheel gunpowder van - "Spillers Flour" - weathered (Dap) NEW :10.50

NEW 47-090-009 9 plank open wagon "LNER loco coal" (Dap) NEW 47-090-010 9 plank open wagon "LNER loco coal" - weathered (Dap) NEW 37-328C 90 Torne JGA Bogie Hopper in RIMC - weathered (Bac), E3 H4-BH-003 Beilhack snow plough (ex Class 40) ZZA ADB965578 BR



H4-BH-004 Beilhack snow plough (ex Class 40) ZZA ADB965579 in BR yellow "Stratford Shark" (Hat) . . .



H4-BH-005 Beilhack snow plough (ex Class 45) ZZA ADB966098 in BR yellow NSE Branding (Hat) NEW . H4-BH-006 Beilhack snow plough (ex Class 45) ZZA ADB966099 i yellow NSE Branding (Hat) NEW





ICI005A ICI Hopper wagon 19041 in battleship grey body, underframes & bogies PHV TOPS panel (black backing).





opper wagon 3284 in mid grey body, & bogies. 1945 - 1950s (Oxf)......



R6884 Pack of three 6-wheel Milk Tanks "Express



R6856 PCA vee tank wagon 10567 in Rocky







H4-WW-003A Warwell wa WW.38 in WD (LNER) (Hat) NEW



NEW . honner DB980053 EWS maroon (F

Containers & Loads
44-551 Coal loads for 4-wheel wagons x 4 (Bac). £6.76 76CONT004 Container Samskip (Oxf) NEW £7.50
4F-028-013 Pair of 45 foot curtain sided containers - "P & O Ferry" -
008460-2 and 008037-7 (Dap) NEW
008460-2 and 008037-7 - weathered (Dap) NEW

Analogue controllers



Digital controllers



R8214 DCC Elite unit digital controller (Hor) Point motors



R8243 Surface Mounted point motor (Hor). Lighting equipment ach Lighting Strips - Warm White (Tra)

Accessories



R913 Nut Spa



etic screw couplings (Hor) £4.50 Cables & Wires

Code 100/124 (x4 pairs) (Pec)

Buildings - railways



44-017 Modern servicing depot - Scenecraft range (Bac) . \$284.96 44-0092 Motorail Car Loading Point (Bac) NEW 533.96

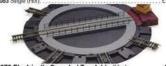
Man-made scenic structure - railwayrelated



89121 27.4 metre (90ft) Motorised turntable - ready for installation. For HO/OO scales, DCC ready (Hel). . . . £199



.....£9.50





R514 Platform Canopy x 2 (Hor) Signals

L-001-001 Signal - Motorised, Square post GWR home I DOSIGN1) (Dan).

Buildings - general







44-0097 Industrial Yard Ulince (Dac) I<mark>NEW</mark>
44-0094 Rendered Profab Building (Bac) NEW
44-0027 Rural Bus depot (Bac) (RRP 259.95)...BARGAIN
44-0090 Small Industrial unit (Bac) NEW. £15.26 £39 £29.71

Man-made scenic structure - non-railway 4-0009 Container terminal crane (Bac) (RRP £169.95)BARGAIN. . £115 minal crane (Bac) (RRP £169 Bridges, Tunnels & Walls Trees

GM132 Mixed trees - Pack of 10 (Gau) NEW Grass, Ground, Lichen, Hedges & Foliage GM106 Flowers and plants in pots - Set 1 - Pack of 9 (Gau) NEW GM107 Flowers and plants in pots - Set 2 - Pack of 9 (Gau) NEW ... £9

People - civil 36-047 Locomotive staff x 6 (Bac) £8.46 Track - Code 100 Setrack R607 2nd radius double curve track (8 make a circle) (Hor) R607 Circle of 8 (Hor). R601 Double Straight (Hor) R601 Box of 24 (Hor). R8074 Left hand curved point (Hor). £2 £47 £14



Track - Code 100 Streamline



SL-100 Single (Pec) SL-102 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Nickel Silver cond



SL-E87 Left hand curved point - electrofrog (Pec) . £12.50 SL-87 Left hand curved point - insulftrog (Pec) . . . £12.50 SL-E89 Left hand large point - electrofrog (Pec) . . . £12



SL-96 Left hand medium point - electrofrog (Pec) £10.50 SL-96 Left hand medium point - insulfrog (Pec) £10.50



SL-E92 Left hand small point - electrofrog (Pec). . . . £9.50

SL-E86 Right hand curved point - electrofrog (Pec) £12.50 £64 SL-86 Right hand curved point - insulfrog (Pec) £12.50



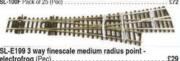
for all new releases



SL-E95 Right hand medium point - electrofrog (Pec) . £10.50

Track - Code 75 Finescale

SL-108F 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Code 75 Wooden-sleeper bullhead rail flexible track (Pec) SL-108F Evor 125 (Pec) SL-108F Evor 125 (Pec) SL-102F 1 yard (91.5cm) length of finescale Nickel Silver con-sleeper flexible track. (Pec) SL-100F Pack of 25 (Pec) SL-100F 1 yard (91.5cm) length of Nickel Silver Finescale floxible SL-100F Fack of 25 (Pec) £3.30



SL-E190 Finescale double slip - electrofrog (Pec) £38

SL-E196 Finescale left hand medium point -

SL-E188 Finescale right hand large point electrofrog (Pec)...

SL-E195 Finescale right hand medium point -

SL-U189 Left hand large radius builhead rail point - unitrog (Pec) ... £21.50
SL-U1189 Left hand large radius builhead rail point - unitrog (Pec) .. £26
SL-U1188 Right hand large radius builhead rail point - unitrog (Pec) .. £26 **Track & Points**

R8262 Double 4th radius curve (8 make a circle) (Hor). Track underlay



GM200 5 metres of realistic grey ballasted OO gauge

£10 Railway publications

Buses

34112 AEC RT Bus 'London Transport' (EFE) £29.71



Cars





76HE001 Heinkel Trojan Roman Blue (Oxf) NEW ... £4.50 76LAN188023 Land Rover Series 1 88° Carrvas Marine Blue (Oxf) NEW . £4.50 76LAN2019 Land Rover Series II LWB Station Wagon Limestone (Oxf) NEW £5





Blue (Oxf) NEW

Commercial vehicles

Walk Thru Scottish & Newcastle (Oxf) NEW . . £8.50



76TPU001 Ford Transit Dropside - Stobart Rail (Oxf) NEW£10
76FT1008 Ford Transit Mkt Castrol (Oxf) NEW ... £4.50
76LR2S004 Land Rover Series II SWB Post Office Telephones
(Yellow) (Oxf) NEW ... £5





76TCAB010 Scania T Cab Short Curtainside -Transport (Oxf) NEW **Farming & Construction**







763CX001 JCB 3CX Eco Backhoe Loader JCB (Oxf) £19.50 Military ground vehicles



76LRFCA002 Land Rover FC Ambulance Nato Green (Oxf) £8.50

Tools **009 Narrow Gauge** Steam locos



391-028 Baldwin Class 10-12-D 4-6-0T "Hummy" in athered (Bac) £131 71



391-026 Baldwin Class 10-12-D 4-6-0T 590 in Welsh

Wagons

GR-230U Lyr NEW on and Barnstaple 8 ton bogie open wagon plain g Track - Code 80 Setrack



Track - Code 80 Streamline

SL-400 1 yard length of OO9 narrow gauge flexible track worn sleepers (Pec) SL-400 Box of 25 (Pec)

N Gauge

Steam locos



372-536 Class 4MT Standard 2-6-4T 80119 BR lined black £101.96



372-800B Class A1 4-6-2 60163 "Tornado"' in BR Express



372-184A Princess Coronation Class 4-6-2 46228 "Duchess

Steam train packs



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



371-037 CI erved (Gra) £101 96



371-450A Class 37/0 37041 in BR blue split headcode









371-386 Class 66 66416 in Freightliner Powerhaul £114.7







371-628 GWR Railcar W22W in BR Brunswick green speed whiskers (Gra) £80 71

Train sets - analogue

Railway Renewals" starter train set - Dapol Class 66 66711 se IOA wagons and oval of Kato track contr (Gau)..... £212

Train sets - digital



Coaches



2P-012-253 Pack of three Maunsell coaches - Set 394-brake third, compartment third and compartment third in SR olive green (Dap). £70.13

Wagons



2F-025-001 MJA mineral & aggregates twin bogie box wagon 502003 and 502004 in Freightliner green (Dap) NEW ... 332 28 2F-025-002 MJA mineral & aggregates twin bogie box wagon 502017 and 502018 in Freightliner green (Dap) 3 M A



Containers & Loads 2F-028-102 Pair of 40 foot containers - "Mitsui Lines" - 8186026 and

£13.50 Model railway spares
SL-310 Rail Joiners/Fishplates for N & OO9 gauge (24 per pack) (Pec) £2

Man-made scenic structure - railwayrelated ns (red brick) (Gra)

Signal - Motorised, GWR home lower quadrant (ex Track - Code 80 Setrack

ST-11 Double straight track (Pec)
ST-17 N Setrack NoS radius double curve (8 form a circle).
298.5mm/11.75 radius (Pec).
ST-15 No.2 radius double curve (Pec).
ST-5 No.2 radius double curve (Pec).
ST-5 Setrack inglit hand point insulfrog (Pec).
ST-5 Setrack right hand point insulfrog (Pec).

Track - Code 80 Streamline





SL-E396 Left hand medium point electrofrog (Pec) . £9.50



SL-E395 Right hand medium point electrofrog (Pec) £9.50

Track - Code 55 Finescale



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



SL-E387F Finescale curved double radius left hand point



SL-E392F Finescale left hand small point

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

NEW

NEW

Transport

NEW

Transport maroon (Dap) NEW 7S-007-006S Class 57xx 0-6-0PT pan

Buses

Commercial vehicles

Military ground vehicles

O Gauge (1:43 Scale)

Steam locos

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

7S-007-005 Class 8750 0-6-0PT pannier 3716 in BR Black late crest (Dap) £199.75 7S-007-0055 Class 8750 0-6-0PT pannier 3716 in BR Black late crest DCC sound filted (Dap) \$357.60 CS on the CS on th

7S-007-003 Class 8750 0-6-0PT pannier 9659 in GWR

agull Stratford Blue (Oxf) NEW £7.50

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

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



2010 Class 20 in BR green small yellow panels and 4-character headcodes (Hel) (RRP £599)BARGAIN...£340



2015 Class 20 in Railfreight Red Stripe headcode



3713 Class 37/0 in BR large logo blue centre headcode 6470



4201 Class 42 Warship D827 "Kelly" in BR green small DMUs



8910 Class 128 parcels DMU W55991 in BR green speed



4955 Mk1 BG full brake in BR blue Newspapers branding (HeI) (RRP £325)BARGAI



4993 Mk1 GUV full brake in BR blue Express Parcels



7S-007-004 Class 57xx 0-6-0PT pannier L94 in London Transport maroon (Dap) NEW. £206.13 75-024-0028 Class 64x 0-6-0PT pannier 6417 in Great Western green shirbution embern - DCC sound filted (Dap) . £407.50 78-024-0038 Class 64xx 0-6-0PT pannier 6435 in BR black early emblem - DCC sound filted (Dap) . £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 £407.50 1054 100xx ZDA (ex-OAA) in Civil Engineers Dutch grey and yellow (Hel) (RRP £84.95)BARGAIN ... £39



£357.60





4351 4-wheel 'Catfish' ballast holive green (Hel) (RRP £99.95).





1006 4-wheel Class B tank in United Molasses brown (Hel) (RRP £84.95)....BARGAIN.



5053 Bogie covered IWB Cargowaggon 2797589 - "GB-Continent" (Hel) (RRP £189)



5051 Bogie covered IWB Cargowaggon 2797591 in silve and blue - weathered (HeI) (RRP £189) BARGAIN.....£





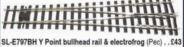
702 Warwell wagon 50t diamond frame bogies WW.55 in War Department (LMS) (Hat).

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



Cars



VA10818 Ford Capri Mk3 3.0S - Arizona Bronze (Cor



VA11509 Triumph TR5 - Jasmine Yellow (Cor) Commercial vehicles 43TX5001 London TX5 Taxi black (Oxf) NEW G Scale

Steam locos

91404 Emily Steam loco (with moving eyes) (Thomas th with moving eyes) (Thomas the Tank Tank range) (Bac) .

Wagons

Any or Multiple Scales

Analogue controllers



D Double/Twin track power controller (Gau) £80
Q Quadruple 4 circuit power controller (Gau) £149

Digital decoders 36-554 21-pin 3-function 2-sided 1A decoder back EMF for slow 36-554 21-pin 3-tunculus 2-america. E14-bu running (Bac). E14-bu DCR-21PIN-Direct 21-pin 4-function 1.1Amp direct plug decoder back EMF (Hat). 568 EMF (Hat)
DCR-21PIN-Direct Box of 5 (Hat)
DCR-21PIN-Direct Box of 5 (Hat)
DCR-21PIN-Direct Box of 10 (Hat)
36-557 21-pin E-Z Command 44-inction 1A decoder bask EMF (Bac), 136-557 Pack of (Bac) (RIPE 109.75)
BARGAIN
X8659 4-pin DCC decoder for Sentinels and Peckett Boxos (Hor)
36-568 6 pin DCC decoder for Sex EMF and Ralicion (Bac), 0. C
DCR-6PIN-Direct 6-pin 2-function 1.1Amp direct plug decoder back
EMF (Hat) EMF (Hat). 217 DCC23 6-pin 2-function 1A (2A peak) decoder (suitable for N gauge) (Gau) .223



DCR-8PIN-Harness Box of 10 8-pin (harness) 4-tt 1.1Amp decoder back EMF (Hat). DCR-8PIN-Harness Box of 5 (Hat) DCR-8PIN-Harness Box of 5 (Hat) R8249 8-pin 4-banction 2-sided 0.5A (1A peak) decoder (Hor)



ation' 4-6-2 steam loco (Hor) NEW loco (Hor) R8116 TTS DCC Sound Decoder 8 pin plug - Class S15 4-6-0 steam 1000 (1101). R8107 TTS DCC Sound Decoder 8 pin plug - Gresley Class A4 4-6-2 Digital control accessory decoders

Digital controllers ma@ DCC System Trial copy RailCo



50210 ECoS Command Station DCC V2.1 controller full colour LCD touch screen & dual controllers - 6A output (ESU) . . . £600



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



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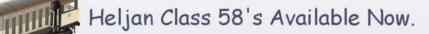
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PORTH ST JOHN

Words: Ian Stradling Photography: Tony Wright

With its unique bridge and desolate shoreline, Porth St John surely makes an impression at exhibitions. The creation of one club, is it now operated by another, as Bristol East MRC's Ian Stradling explains



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Led by a Churchward 45xx small prairie the milk train passes moored fishing boats resting on the sand and the decaying remains of a wrecked ship as it rolls across the estuary bridge.

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he North Devon Model Railway Club is well known for a series of highly scenic coastal-themed layouts produced though the 1990s and 2000s, such as 'Cadiford Water'.

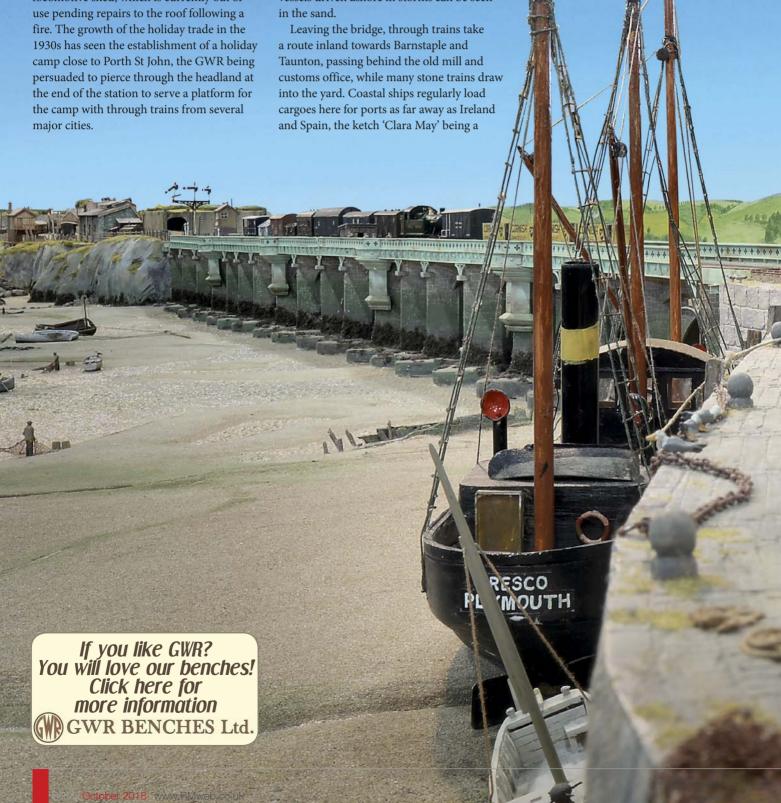
Porth St John is the latest in the series and, just for a change, this time the tide is out!

When the railway came to the town of Porth St John a single-platform terminus station was constructed, along with a goods yard on the old town quay. A siding behind the platform now serves the cattle market established alongside the railway and a small locomotive shed, which is currently out of

Crossing a short bridge to Smugglers Island, the line from the quarries joins before trains cross the estuary bridge, passing the three-post junction signal needed to indicate which route is set for approaching trains.

While a holidaying family enjoys the Devon beach and explores the caves in the cliffs below the station, local fishermen are busy in the shadow of the bridge, launching their rowing boats into the main river channel to gather fresh fish using seine nets. The weather is not always so pleasant on this Atlantic coast, however, and the remains of vessels driven ashore in storms can be seen in the sand.

frequent visitor. A shunting engine is usually in attendance, busily moving wagons on and off the quayside and preparing trains back to the quarries.



While the chandlers, blacksmith and timber yard are kept busy with repairs to sailing ships and farm carts, not all enterprises here have been a success. It seems even the scrap man has given up hope of recovering the failed sand company's traction engine from the dunes.

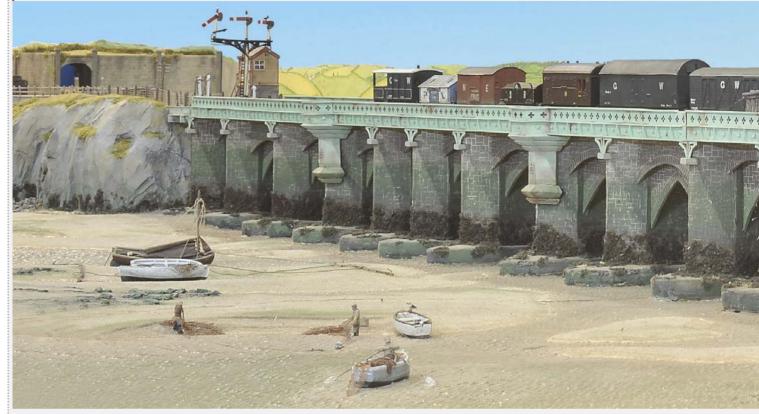
fine sand covers the foreshore, with darkened tones in the working areas of the quay. Naturally weathered driftwood and debris found along the foreshore completes the seaside atmosphere



LAYOUT FOCUS







Key Detail - The Bridge

The centrepiece of Porth St John is the bridge, which is a suitably shortened model of the medieval Bideford Long Bridge. This stone arched bridge is believed to have been constructed in the late 14th century to connect the old town of Bideford with the river port on the opposite bank. The furthest downstream crossing of the River Torridge until 1987 the bridge is famed for its varying arch widths, a feature which the model replicates. Local lore claims the bridge arches were sized to match the contributions of local parishes, but this quirk originates from the timbers of the earlier wooden bridge. The bridge has been modified and widened several times and the model represents the 1864-1925 appearance, with the decorative cast iron parapets of that period.

Although Bideford Bridge never carried a permanent railway it has been crossed by the locomotives of the Bideford, Appledore and Westward Ho! Railway on temporary track and by the layout in its trailer.

At Porth St John the bridge serves a similar purpose to Bideford, spanning the sandy expanse of the estuary to link the old town with the new quay constructed along the opposite riverbank and the Great Western Railway beyond.

A team effort

The layout was built by the combined efforts of Geoff Drew, John Long, Colin Monk and Keith Sanders of the North Devon MRC. Geoff conceived and designed the layouts, casting the railway into the scenery. The group's primary scenic artist, Geoff spent many hours bringing his vision to life, constructing and weathering the bridge, cliff faces, quay walls and estuary. Textures were created using Artex teased into ripple patterns and the river channels painted with colours carefully adjusted to create the appearance of deepening water. Fine sand covers the foreshore, with darkened tones in the working areas of the quay. Naturally weathered driftwood and debris found along the foreshore completes the seaside atmosphere.

Colin laid out the track with its many custom-built points and commenced the electrical work needed to connect up the section power supplies and links between boards for track power and point control circuits.

The station buildings, goods shed, three signal boxes and impressive bracket signals were constructed by John using plastic sheet along with Wills and Ratio kits, all modified into uniquely detailed structures.

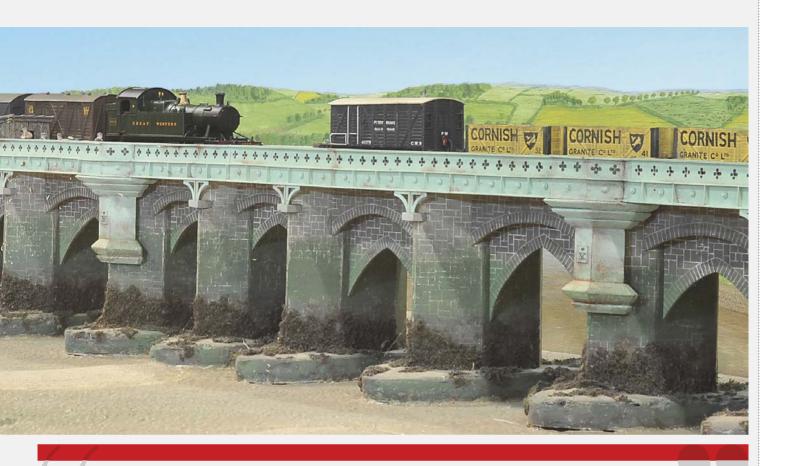
Many of the background structures from the reasonably well maintained cattle market to the decrepit corrugated iron roof of the timber yard were built by Keith. Some of these were recovered from earlier layouts, reconstructed for their new purposes, including the fire damaged engine shed roof created by setting it on fire. Time, like the tide, waits for no man and Colin passed on before Porth St John was completed; the wiring being finished by Geoff and John to allow trains to be run.

Recognising that the shrinking North Devon team would not be able to continue to exhibit the large layouts, the club approached Bristol East MRC to take over the layouts in order that they would continue to be available for the exhibition circuit.

Sadly, only a few weeks before the results of the Railway Modeller layout of the year poll revealed the award of the 2011 cup to Porth St John, Geoff Drew also departed.

The Porth St John layout boards moved to the Bristol East clubroom in March 2012 where, with help and advice from John Long on previous exhibition experience, we set about getting the layout back into action.



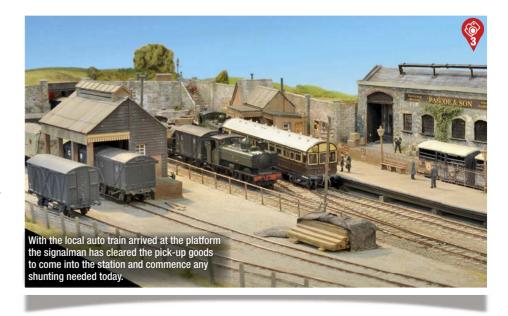


local lore claims the bridge arches were sized to match the contributions of local parishes, but this quirk originates from the timbers of the earlier wooden bridge

Operations

Porth St John is best thought of as being two overlapped end-to-end layouts, sharing the single track line across the bridge. One route takes trains from the station across the bridge to a fiddle yard behind the quay. The second route is for trains from the quarry fiddle yard behind the station to the quay yard. However, all power was supplied from the station end of the layout and, following the loss of Colin with his electrical plans incomplete, the North Devon team had never succeeded in getting both routes working independently. While trains could run from end to end the quay was powered from the bridge, so shunting of the yard interrupted through services.

The root of the issue was the shared single line across the bridge, and a revised electrical



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plan was quickly developed by Bristol East's electrician Nigel Seville. New control panels with line diagrams, stud contacts for point control and switches for track isolation sections were constructed for each end of the layout. These panels are fed from two Bristol East mains transformer 'power packs' to supply independent controllers at the station and quay ends of the layout.

The bridge still needed to be switched between controllers and this has been achieved by a cooperative push-button activated electrical 'token' relay. Both the station and quay operators must press the appropriate control button to toggle the relay and pass the bridge power feed between the panels, ensuring both ends know who is running the single line.

Easier to resolve was the need for another fiddle yard, as Porth St John had originally been designed as a terminus. When the through line was added the extra fiddle yard required at exhibitions was loaned from one of John's layouts.

To replace this a simple shuffle board type unit was built with trains stored in troughs made from aluminium angles fixed to plywood strips at 16.5mm gauge. Power remains 'temporarily' arranged using two wires with crocodile clips at the end. If it works...!!

Technical challenges

All exhibition layouts suffer from a number of issues created by the need for the layout to be portable. The boards must be separable

mechanically and electrically and survive being bounced around in a van or trailer for hundreds of miles.

Once the new control panels were in place Porth St John could be operated as intended, although running and electrical reliability at its first few exhibitions was less than desirable. Where multiple tracks crossed board joints often it was not possible to align all the tracks adequately, while several of the jumper connectors used made poor connections, causing parts of the layout inexplicably cease working.

A more extensive investigation of the electrical issues was begun, quickly turning up a number of anomalies and earlier efforts to cure the layouts' gremlins. There are a number of rail breaks where sections had



been planned but were not needed and extra feeds had been added to link up these accidentally isolated rail sections. Many of the unneeded breaks were bridged with a short wire between the rails while the wiring under the boards has been reworked, with considerable simplification achieved.

We now understand the electrical system a bit better, although the joints continue to cause amusement by becoming unsoldered between exhibitions!

Now with more confidence in the supply of power the layout boards were set up for the track alignment to be adjusted. Behind the quay with its' complex layout of sidings the main fiddle yard tracks were particularly misaligned. Fortunately the use of copper clad strips to hold the rail ends allowed the

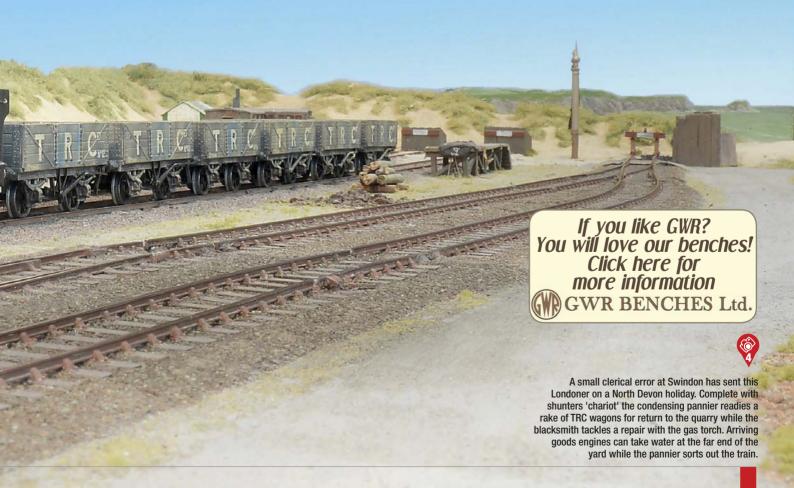
Meet the modellers...

Despite its name Bristol East Model Railway Club is based to the north of Bristol at Winterbourne, having moved further north each time it has relocated. There are currently eleven members, Richard (Chairman), Simon (Secretary), Dave, Edward, Ian, William, Gordon, Stephen, Nigel (Treasurer and chief electrician), and two Philips. The members actively model in N gauge and OO gauge, with the club and club members having exhibition layouts in these two gauges travelling with them to various exhibitions in Britain and a couple in Germany. Some members are breaking in to O gauge and are even threatening to build an O gauge layout.

As a club we do not take life too seriously and a trophy (the cockup kettle) is awarded for various reasons, funny, silly or embarrassing. The current holder, Richard, gained it by falling asleep part way through a story he was recounting, with a pint in his hand which he did not spill, in the bar of a hotel we were staying at. His pathetic excuse was that he had been working nightshift the night before and was tired.

We hope you have enjoyed this introduction to Porth St John and will visit us to see the layout in person at one of the forthcoming exhibitions.

Porth St John is best thought of as being two overlapped end-to-end layouts, sharing the single track line across the bridge



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hidden tracks to be re-laid once we were happy the tracks on the quay were properly aligned.

The North Devon club were always frugal with their layout materials and several of the Porth St John boards have seen service as previous layouts. As a result many of the bolt holes between the boards had become enlarged from repeated use. The final job was therefore undertaken on the Friday of an exhibition with the layout set up, carefully aligned, levelled, bolted and clamped. New 10mm diameter bolt holes were drilled between the boards, restoring a tight fit with the bolts.

While set up still needs some adjustment to get the tracks properly aligned, this is now primarily due to hall floor levels and the special North Devon conduit pipe legs which give the group's layouts their characteristic swaying motion.

The survivability of the layout has also been addressed, the builders having considered the boards were too heavy to be paired face-to-face for transport. A transport cover for each board was assembled from plywood and batten between the existing end protection boards. Once covered the scenery is well protected, the boards can be stacked if needed and nothing can accidentally fall into the layout.

Stock

Much of the rolling stock for Porth St John has come from the North Devon group, and we are pleased to be keeping the group's heritage together.

Passenger stock includes Ratio 4-wheel and stretched to scale length Tri-ang clerestory coaches. A set of four new Hornby Collett coaches has been added to the stock after being lightly weathered and fitted for close coupling.

General parcels, milk, fish and cattle trains can be formed, along with several stone or china clay trains of private owner wagons custom finished with fictional but very believable Devon and Cornwall themed company names. Along with weathered Wrenn, Hornby Dublo and Mainline models, many wagons have come from Ratio, Airfix, Ks, Colin Ashby and Ian Kirk kit ranges.

The wagons use 3-link couplings with outer wagons fitted with 'North Devon'

couplings, a magnetically worked coupler made from iron wire on the same principle as the Sprat and Winkle design, the hook being drawn downward to release the coupling.

The range of suitable ready to run GWR models has improved in recent years.

The Porth St John motive power fleet has been supplemented with 42/72xx classes from Hornby, 57xx and 64xx panniers, 45xx prairies, 43xx mogul and 'Dukedog' from Bachmann and an Oxford Rail Dean Goods. We have a few more unusual classes from the North Devon club and our own collections which will continue to appear at exhibitions, even if some are a long way from 'home'!

elements that I admired - Andy McVittie

The estuary

I am a sucker for a decent water effect, but Porth St John ups the ante in showing how things might look when the tide has gone out. Thus pools form, rivulets ooze, boats are

beached and what the sea might have covered earlier is revealed. It's wonderful stuff.



Architecture

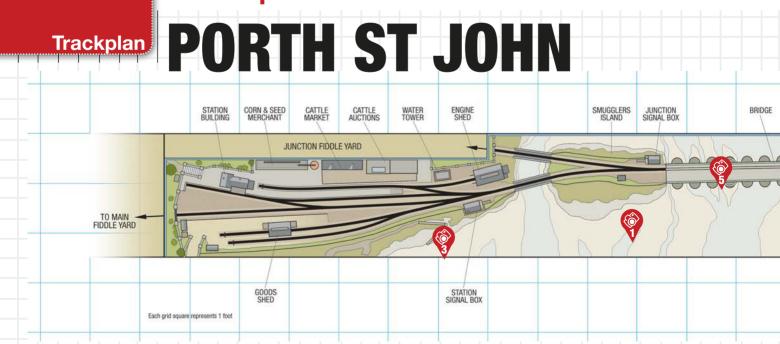
Porth St John's bridge and estuary are obvious centrepieces, but the buildings should not be overlooked. Many look to be in various states of decay, but all really convey a tangible sense of 'seaside'.



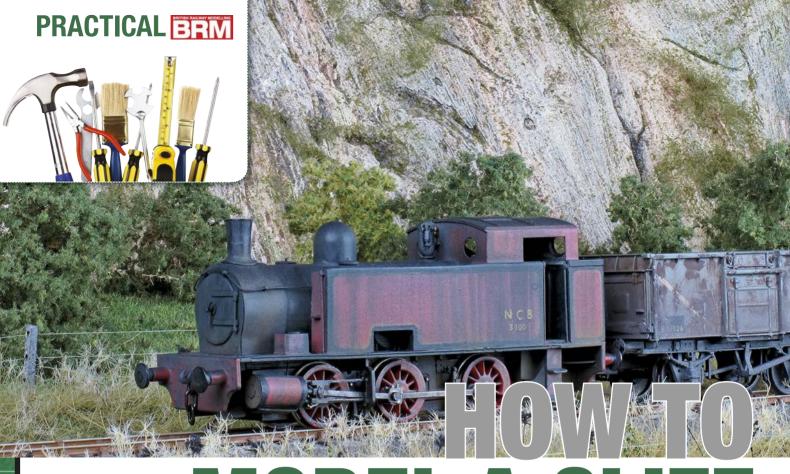
That bridge

The absolute focal point of Porth St John, and the element that I stood and gawped at before I'd even noticed what else was going on. Once I'd take it all in, I was doubly determined to get the layout in the magazine.





00 GAUGE STATE THE A STATE OF THE PARTY The section ganger stands back as a Churchward prairie rolls across the bridge. The bridge gang has their own stores hut, though the spare iron panel doesn't fit inside. Often a ballast plough van is kept here as a mess van, but ready for ballast trains coming from the quarries. Note the viewing side of the parapets is more detailed than the rear face. If you like GWR? You will love our benches! Click here for more information GWR BENCHES Ltd. HARBOUR FIDDLE YARD Cantoutson) STEAMER ESTUARY HARBOUR OFFICE www.brm-magazine.co.uk | October 2018 | BRM



MODEL A CLIFF AND ROCK FACE

Words & Photography: Michael Russell

Observation is everything, says Michael Russell as he shares his techniques to create a

low-cost detailed rock face.

ock faces and cliffs are distinguishing features of many locations.
They're prevalent in nature, and are a common feature resulting from the construction of railway lines where rock is exposed when making cuttings and building tunnels. It should be part of your study of the topography of an area you're modelling.

The rock face I've modelled here is generic and demonstrates the techniques I use, but you should research the type of rock you want to model and take reference photographs of the colouration and structure for later use. It's not particularly difficult to make and you can create dramatic scenery if you want.

Make it look like the railway is passing through your terrain – it's too easy to make it look like a flat railway with piles of rock either side. Many North American layouts feature dramatic mountainous scenery and are worth investigating.



Peel and discard the aluminium foil covering the foam insulation sheets, then cut it to shape with a wood saw.



Study photographs of real locations you want to base your model on, then distress the foam with rasps, files, wire brushes or drills to get different shapes.

Shopping list

Extruded insulation foam Poly Fibre Acrylic paints Wall filler Ground foam Wood saw Rasp Files Scribe Wire brush Drill and drill bits 1" paint brush Spatula Mixing bowl



Mix wall filler to the consistency of double cream using a spatula. When mixing, add water a little at a time and mix before adding more.



Brush the filler onto the foam. It's better to add several thin layers to aid drying and is a necessity if you're building to a depth greater than 10mm. This is a good time to blend joints between pieces of foam.



Whilst still wet, add light brown, dark brown, green and grey washes. Use plenty of water – you can always add more layers of wash, but you can't take it off as easily. Start at the top and let the colour work its way down. I retain the base colour in the palette and add other colours to blend better.



Just like when baking, you'll find the mixture produces peaks, so once dry, sand them down. Add final detailing here - fine strata can be produced using a wire brush and scribers.



Tilt the work at about a 45 degree angle. Start by adding an overall base colour wash over the cliff/rock face. I used acrylics and emulsion paints.

creating a good-looking rock face takes careful research and planning



Dark-coloured pastels can be worked into the crevices to emphasise these more. You need to be subtle because it's easy to overdo. Ensure the base coat is dry first.

MICHAEL'S TOP TIPS

- This job is messy, especially if you're cutting lots of foam. You may want to use a dedicated space that's easy to clean afterwards. A vacuum cleaner is essential for cleaning up.
- Insulation board is obtainable from your local wood yard or builder's merchant. Ask your supplier to cut it into smaller, more manageable pieces.
- Join foam sections together with a hot glue gun or specialised foam glue.
- Wear a dust mask when working with any material that produces dust.
- The finer the detail you add to a rock surface, and the lighter the colours you paint it, the more distant it'll look in a scene.
 Add less surface detail to rock faces close to the viewer.
- When applying the powder filler, you may find it easier if you cut down the bristles of your brush.





Tease out pieces of PolyFibre and lay out on newspaper, then coat with hairspray.



To simulate lichen and moss, take some off white and yellow-brown paint and flick it at the surface using an old toothbrush. Don't overdo this effect.



Transfer the piece to another sheet of newspaper and sprinkle on ground foam – I used Hornby R8874. Place in a safe location to dry.



Stick the vegetation so that it hangs down the face in a random fashion. I used superglue and an activator for quick results. Glue one or two spots at one end, then stretch the PolyFibre until you have thin coverage, then glue that side down.







DIGITAL EDITOR EXCELLISIVE

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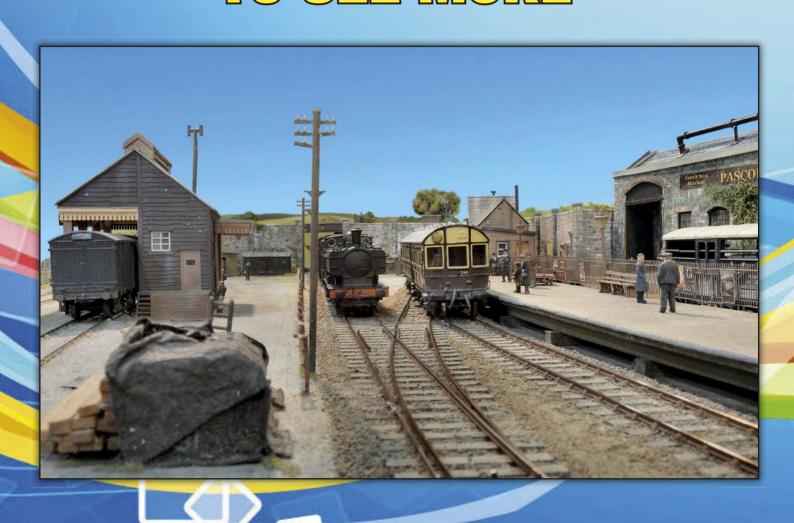
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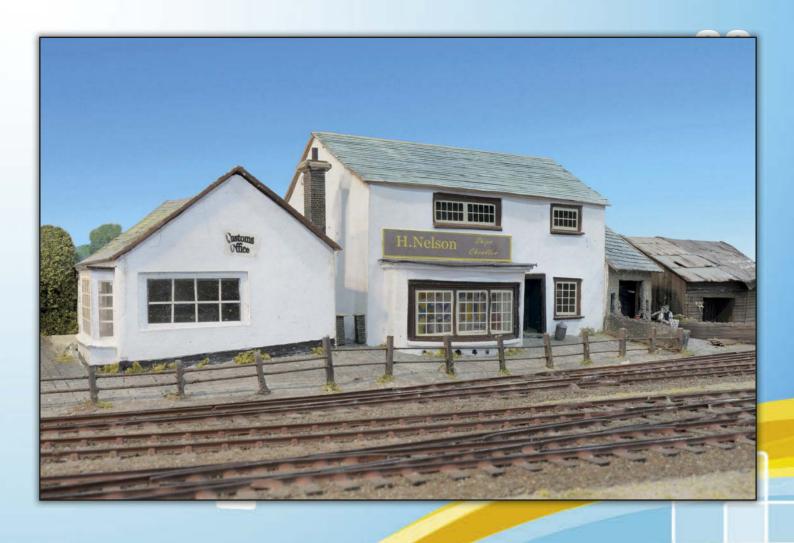
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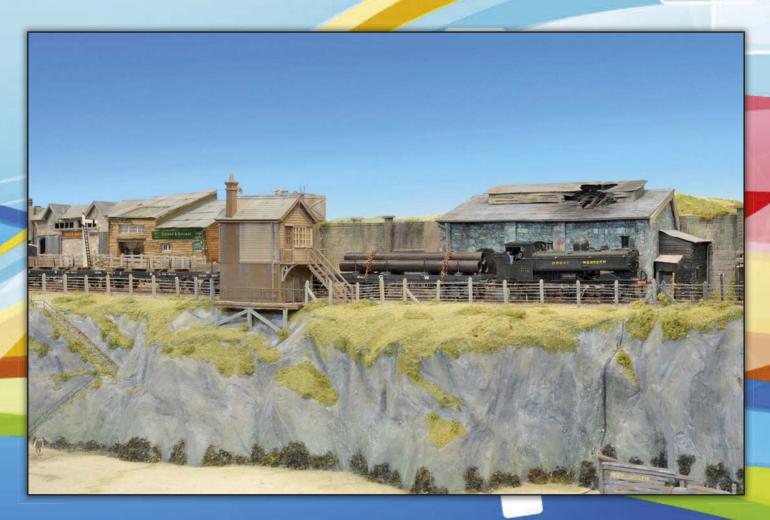


BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING 4

DIGITAL EDITION EXCELSIVE CUCKAND SWIPE IMAGES









DIGITAL EDITOR EXCELSIVE

TEN COMMANDMENTS TRACK CLEANER

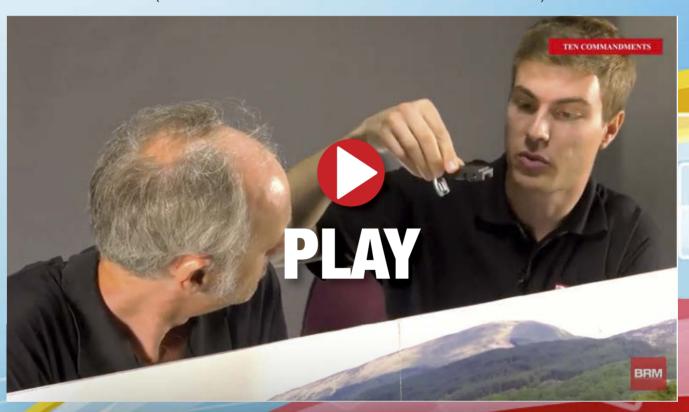
It's a simple truth to say that model trains run better on clean tracks. Howard Smith tries one of the most popular commercial solutions, but how well does it work? Watch this to find out



A CINCOLLINA

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TEN COMMANDMENTS
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Words & Photography: Phil Parker

Phil Parker opened a Slater's O gauge wagon kit expecting to find plastic bits and pieces. He got a lot more than he bargained for...

Every time a new construction technology appears, people try to use it for everything. No matter if it's the right method, it's new and therefore must be the way.

3D printing is going through this stage of development at the moment, but old hands like myself remember when etching and even whitemetal casting was new, and therefore was used despite the results not being great.

Those same old hands know that in an ideal world you should use the right material for the job every time. Parts that need to be thin should be made of metal. Larger parts can be plastic, especially where plenty of thickness or light weight is called for. Castings are better for tiny bits that need the sort of strength that plastic can't offer.

You'll find no more traditional firm than Slater's, and they have many years of expertise of delivering kits. Known for plastic products, I was surprised and pleased to find a real selection of materials in the box for this Conflat 'A'. In fact, apart from paint and transfers, often a personal choice, everything you need to build the wagon is supplied.

For variety, I fancied a refrigerated container, so picked up a single-part resin moulding from Skytrex. It adds useful weight and, when painted, a bit of colour to the model.

A kit like this shouldn't be rushed, but there are some possible shortcuts. If a detail can't be seen on a layout, can you leave it off? If so, as most of the construction is carried out with the wagon upside down, perhaps the modeller might like to simplify things a bit. On the other hand, there is pleasure in knowing all the detail is present, even if you can't see it.

Tools

Modelling knife Abrasive sticks Needle files Small snips Pin vice Selection of small drill bits Riveting tool Plastic solvent (Slater's MEK Pak) Superglue

What we used

Slaters

7067 BR Conflat "A" wagon kit www.slatersplastikard.com

Skytrex

SMR21 Container Type AF www.ogauge.co.uk

Markits

Screw Link Couplings www.markits.com



Here are the main injection moulded plastic parts, etched brass components and, in the centre, lost-wax cast brass items. There are also wheels (steel/plastic) and, not shown, cast nickel-silver couplings and steel tie-down loops. For a four wheel wagon, there are a lot of pieces.



Most of the construction is carried out with the wagon upside down, starting with attaching the underframe. Four raised locating pegs ensure this fits in the right place, but double check that it's square and then add the buffer beams and solebars. Dry fit each part, as the corner joins needed a little trimming.



Cast brass parts are removed from their sprue with small cutters. Hold the component tightly to avoid it flying away and either vanishing into the corner of the workbench or hitting you in the face! A small file is needed to smooth away the remains of the sprue.



Etched wrappers provide the tool boxes with their rivet detail – or at least they do when you've punched out the rivets from the back. I'm using a gravity tool from London Road Models, but a blunt nail gently tapped into each half-etched dimple works just as well.



There is a little preparation to begin with. Start by drilling out the holes marked on the buffer beam ahead of fitting the lost-wax lamp iron and vacuum pipe fittings.



Holes for all the tie-down loop holders have to be drilled out and an etched guide is provided for this. I started each hole using the guide but don't try to drill it all the way until this is removed. Masking tape is handy to hold the metal in place while you work.



The underframe channel section should be a 'C' shape, not the 'L' as supplied. Microstrip is included to rectify this, but unless the wagon is upside down, no-one is going to see, so it's up to you to decide if this step is worth the effort.



In OO, axleboxes and W-irons would be moulded as part of the solebar. In O gauge, you have three separate parts to assemble, complete with a choice of axlebox covers. The bearings are rather more substantial than the pinpoint versions we use in the smaller scales too, which is far more like the prototype versions.



Along the top of some parts is a mould line that needs removing. You can sand this away, but scraping a knife blade along it produces a neat result. Smooth surfaces ensure well-fitting parts, so don't rush this work.



The metal loop holders can be fixed with superglue, but I drilled the holes a little undersize, put a bit of plastic solvent on them and pushed the metal part home. The solvent softens the plastic enough to allow the spigot in and then dries, gripping the part. You don't risk excess glue appearing this way.

TOP TIP



Applying superglue

Never, ever apply superglue to a model straight from the bottle. Always pour a little bit on some scrap plastic and then pick up a drop at a time using a pin or small screwdriver. You can always add a little more, but cleaning up blobs around parts is a pain.



The brake gear is held in place by a selection of metal brackets and the locating pegs used for the underframe assembly are now in the way. A small chisel is used to remove them. If you don't own such a tool, it might be easier to modify the brackets to clear the pegs using a needle file.



The cast couplings can be made to work just like the real thing, so the tension can be adjusted with the "Tommy Bar" in the centre. I find the end of the loops need to be opened out slightly with a broach or small file to allow them to slip onto the cross-pieces. Do this while they are on the sprue or the brittle metal can snap. They can be repaired with solder, however.



Skytex's refrigerated AF style container is a single, solid resin moulding. Apart from a little cleaning up of the base, it is ready to use, except that the tie-down rings are moulded and therefore unusable.



Keen modellers can drill out each part of the brake rodding and use lengths of wire to join it to the brackets. I just use superglue where the bits of metal touch. It's not quite as perfect, but is serviceable and you can't see it when the wagon is on its wheels. Careful study of the excellent exploded diagrams supplied is essential before putting this lot together.



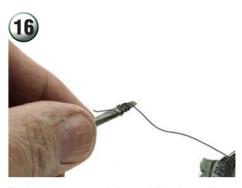
Vacuum pipes are made from springs into the ends of which you superglue the claw and solid pipe, the latter fitted under the wagon. Although the instructions explain how to plumb this up, I decided against it.



Carefully cutting off the corner rings and then using some brass wire to replace them allows the container to be tied down properly. The rings are held in twists of fine wire fitted into holes drilled in the resin.



Mould material, a gritty, off-white substance, has to be cleaned out of the buffer housings before they are attached. 2.5 and 1mm drills will remove it when used carefully. Ensure the buffers slide freely in and out.



Tie-down loops are supplied as steel links, but my kit was one short so I made a replacement by winding wire around a screwdriver. This is a handy skill, as I've since lost another loop. The wires bend easily and fit into the holders, with no cleaning up of the holes required.



On the prototype, containers were chained. 00 gauge screw couplings represent the turnbuckles but fitting them is tricky. I've used fine wire twisted around the ends and passed through the loops on the solebars. It's not perfect, but allows for a tight attachment. Do BRM readers have a better idea?

Conflat facts

- 1. Conflats were in widespread use from the 1950s until the late '70s and beyond, occasionally languishing in sidings.
- 2. Livery of the containers when first introduced was BR carriage crimson with yellow lettering, BR bauxite with white lettering at the end of the 1950s and BRITISH **RAILWAYS** being replaced with arrow and DOOR TO **DOOR** in the 1960s.
- 3. Later developments saw introductions of wagons with hydraulic buffers (as here) and insulated containers.



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PLASTIKARD

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www.slatersplastikard.com

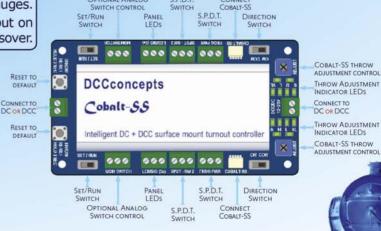




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Your forum for sharing information, questions, praise, grumbles, projects, layouts and your thoughts on the hobby then and now.

BERRYBROOK JUNCTION



Visiting preserved railways to watch and travel on steam trains has provided days out for most of our family holidays – an interest reinvigorated for the last few years with our eldest grandson. His interest has led to visiting several model railway exhibitions and the purchase of a Hornby GWR 61XX model by my wife for my 65th birthday. As a boy I travelled to school from Yiewsley/West Drayton to Southall every day from 1958 to 1966 mostly behind a 'tanner oner' – the 61XX class – until DMUs took over. (For post-decimalization folks – tanner was a sixpence in old money – thus the nickname). The model was meant to sit on a shelf in my study.

My interest in railway modelling began and with retirement on the horizon my boyhood interest in the locomotives of the trainspotting period 1958 to 1964 could feature at home in model form.

In 2016, an area of the garden was cleared to house a 6m x 3m 'Smart Office' and the creation of 'Berrybrook Junction' began with a scenic area of 16ft x 10ft. I set out to create a layout that wasn't prototypical but would provide Western Region locomotives and coaches 'tail chasing' round an inner double track circuit, a shunting yard for creating and solving shunting puzzles and an outer branch line. This would rise up an incline and travel round the edge of the layout to a terminal station called 'Latimer Road'. There'll be other stations for interest. All the stations will be named after roads or houses which we've lived in during 48 years of marriage.

The track bed is laid, the electronics work well with DCC control and three of my ten locomotives have sound. Point motors are needed – another skill to be learnt! Many winter evenings have already been spent with my wife working on Metcalfe buildings and platforms. In many ways it has become a joint hobby.

Naturally, my 12-year-old grandson loves to visit and play trains. The photographs show a lack of scenery and this seems a daunting part of the process of creating a model railway to the superb standards shown at exhibitions and on the pages BRM.

John Berry

Howard says: Hi John, thanks for the images and welcome to the hobby. I hope you enjoyed our scenery DVD last month – you might find it of use for your scenery? Keep up the good work, you're making good progress!



FROM THE BROOM

CUPBOARD...

Thanks for showing my *City of Ripon* locomotive in **BRM** (Inbox, July 2018) - I thought you might like to see the latest 'bodge' from the broom cupboard, which I found an easy project. This is Class K1/1 No. 61997, *MacCailin Mor*, a two-cylinder rebuild by Thompson, of one of Gresley's K4 class, which evolved into the Peppercorn K1.

I used a shortened Replica B1 body and a Finecast LNER K3 chassis kit, which gives the correct wheelbase and valve gear.

The body was cut through at the front of the firebox and 5mm removed from the rear of the boiler. This avoids the moulded footplate fittings, then re-fitted with poly cement and epoxy. Boiler banding hides the joint. Wheels are 21mm diameter from Markits.

The K3 cylinder covers are open at the top, so I used some Comet A3 cylinder covers, trimmed and laid horizontally, to form the top curve. The K4s had the smaller standard tender, but received the larger Standard tenders later, though No. 61997, kept the smaller.

I think bodger's licence dictates that the Replica B1 tender is best for detail and lightness - I don't think there's an RTR small tender on the market and my white metal one weighs a 'ton'!

Brian Came

EXHIBITION CANCELLED

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Huddersfield Railway Modellers regret to announce that its annual exhibition on October 27 and 28 has been cancelled. The members apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

An open weekend at its club rooms at Union Mills, Tanyard Road, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield HD3 4BN will take place instead on the same dates between 10.00 and 16.00 both days.

Admission will be free with refreshments available, ample parking, visiting layouts and trade support.

 $\textbf{W} \ www.hudders \emph{field} railway modellers. weebly. com$

Your opinion

We are always interested to receive your letters, hear your comments and see pictures of your layouts - send them to BRM, Warners Group Publications, West Street, Bourne, PE10 9PH.









'GRONK' ENTHUSIAST

My interest in Class 08 diesels started when I was given a Hornby-Dublo three rail model for my birthday – at the time a good representation, bar the large screw in the middle of the roof which I filled with plasticine.

I now have several Class 08s in my collection in 00 and 0 gauges, the Hornby sound-fitted Class 08 is the best model to date and I believe its Railroad range model the worst. My interest in the Class was further heightened as an 18 year-old working for British Railways when I was shown how to drive an '08' by a friendly driver.

I've always liked to see engine details on view. It comes from a working life of repairing diesel engines and owning ex-London Transport RT and RF and two AEC Renown buses. I wanted a Class 08 in repair condition that's showing the engine. I had an English Electric resin engine block, so tried to find an old Kitmaster kit, but the resin 6KT engine was too big for the model, so I made my own from Plastikard!

Malcolm Hurst



PLASTIC POLLUTION

I was constructing a tunnel mouth from Plastikard recently, generating the usual large piles of plastic swarf and filings when it occurred to me that I was creating a significant quantity of micro plastics! I suspect most modellers do the same without thinking anything of it, as I had previously. We've all heard about the consequences of micro plastic pollution.

I'm not suggesting that we give up using plastics because they're too useful, but maybe we need to think about responsible disposal of the waste? Perhaps a reader with the appropriate expertise can suggest the most suitable method? I think the first priority would be keeping it out of the general environment. With this in mind I've started regularly cleaning my work area with a hand-held Dyson, being careful when disposing of the contents.

Phillip Taylor

MISSION POSSIBLE!

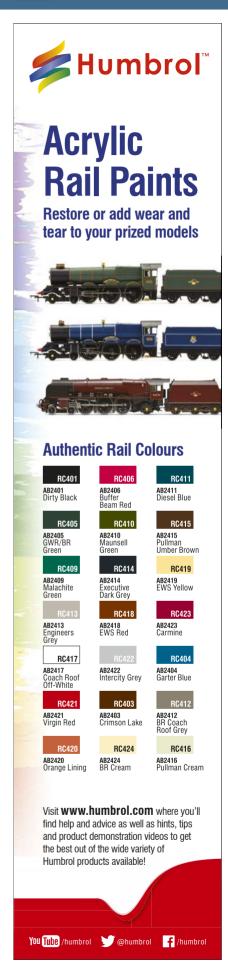
Inspiration to display my latest diorama and fund-raise for a valuable life-saving service came when I discovered the excellent die-cast models of the Midlands Air Ambulance sold in the charity's three shops.

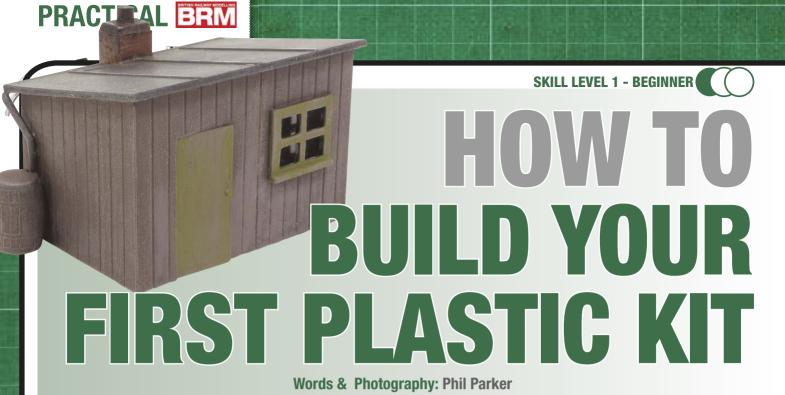
My finished diorama depicts the Air Ambulance attending a fictitious scene in a cutting where a derailed and overturned Class 90 locomotive has brought down two sections of catenary, allowing the Air Ambulance paramedics to make a precarious landing for the injured driver.

Comments at exhibitions have ranged from "Wow! This is something different", to the real value of the service provided by the Air Ambulance. Many visitors make donations or buy something from the official Midlands Air Ambulance merchandise I sell, which displays the phrase 'Mission Possible'.









Plastic kits offer an economical and effective way to add architecture to your layout. What's more, they're easy to build, as Phil Parker now demonstrates...

ooking at the wonderful models shown every month in BRM or at exhibitions up and down the country, it's tempting to think that the creators of these masterpieces possess magical abilities. They don't, it's just that they have had lots of practice and more than a few models have passed over their workbench. Everyone has to start somewhere, though, but what was their first kit?

For many, it will have been a classic Airfix kit, from the range now sold by Dapol. Their kits for model buildings are perfect for OO gauge model railways – easy to assemble and very useful prototypes.

We don't think there is a better starting point than the platelayers' hut, which is part of the "Trackside Accessories" pack. It's a model that any layout can find space for. It goes together well, but if you don't do a perfect job it will still look fine.

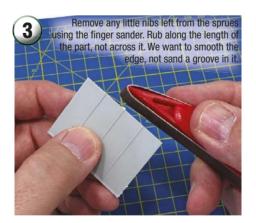
Dating from the mid-1950s, the kits still stand scrutiny but to preserve the moulds, the parts are produced in a soft plastic that cuts easily but can result in a little excess material called 'flash' which needs to be cut or sanded away for a perfect fit. Don't worry, this happens with many plastic kits and is so easy to deal with that it won't stop even a beginner. However, it will provide valuable skills for the future.

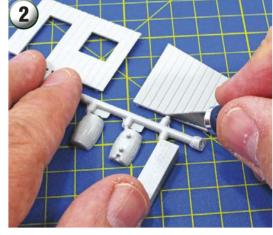
One of the benefits of building a kit over buying a ready-to-use model, apart from the pleasure of creating something yourself, is price. The Trackside Accessories kit costs less than the price of a single resin hut, but provides two huts, a water crane and a loading gauge. All are perfect for steam and even early diesel era models.

The job isn't even very time-consuming. Building this model will comfortably take less than an evening's modelling, so you'll see results nice and quickly. ■



Spend time with the instructions, working out which parts on the plastic sprues are for each model. Most pieces for the hut are grouped together, but the roof is with components for other models. The exploded diagram is worth studying to get a feel for how the building goes together, it's not complicated but you don't want to be trying to work things out once you've opened the glue.

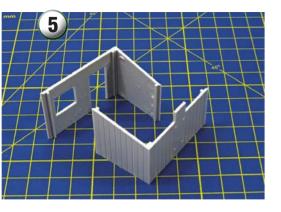




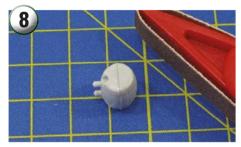
Carefully cut each part you require from the sprue with the knife. The plastic is soft, so it should cut easily. Don't worry about trimming right up to the edge, as you might damage the part. Keep everything in one place on your workbench and put all the parts for the other kits back in the bag so you don't lose them. Trust me, it's easy to do that!



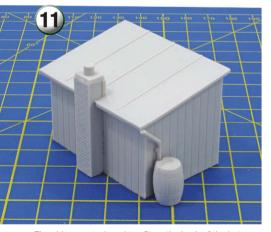
Test fit one end and the wall without glue. This is called a 'dry fit' and is important to check that everything fits together properly. If it doesn't, look at the join and see if there are any tiny bits of plastic getting in the way. Gently remove them with the knife or sander. Once happy, apply a small amount of glue to the join and use the square to make sure the corner is a proper right angle. Leave to dry.



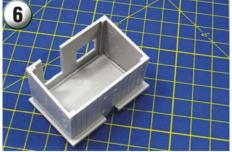
Make up the other side and end in the same way and leave it to dry. This means that when you bring them together to make up the building, the next step, you don't have to juggle several joints at once, as everything should fit pretty near perfectly.



Join the two halves of the water barrel together. There will be a visible line across the top, but once the glue is dry, sanding the top surface hides it.



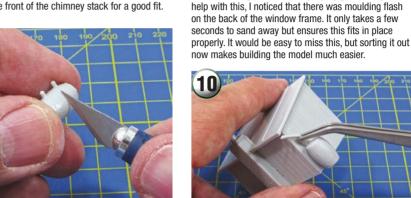
The chimney stack and top fit on the back of the hut using the locating holes and pegs provided.



The roof fits on top and the raised ridges underneath should both locate it in position and keep everything square. You might need to clean out the cut-out where it fits around the front of the chimney stack for a good fit.



Looking at the barrel sides, the join was also pretty obvious, but scraping the knife blade gently along the join (hold the blade at 90 degrees to the join and move it sideways) several times helps to disguise this.



Feeding water from the roof into the barrel is the drainpipe. This fits under the roof and into the back of the barrel. Unless you have very tiny fingers, using the tweezers to locate it in place makes the job a lot easier.

While checking parts, the magnifying glass is a great



Finally, fit the window and door, I like to leave doors on a model slightly ajar. It looks more natural and hints that there are people going in and out. The model is now ready to paint.

ESSENTIAL KIT BUILDING TOOLS PACKAGE

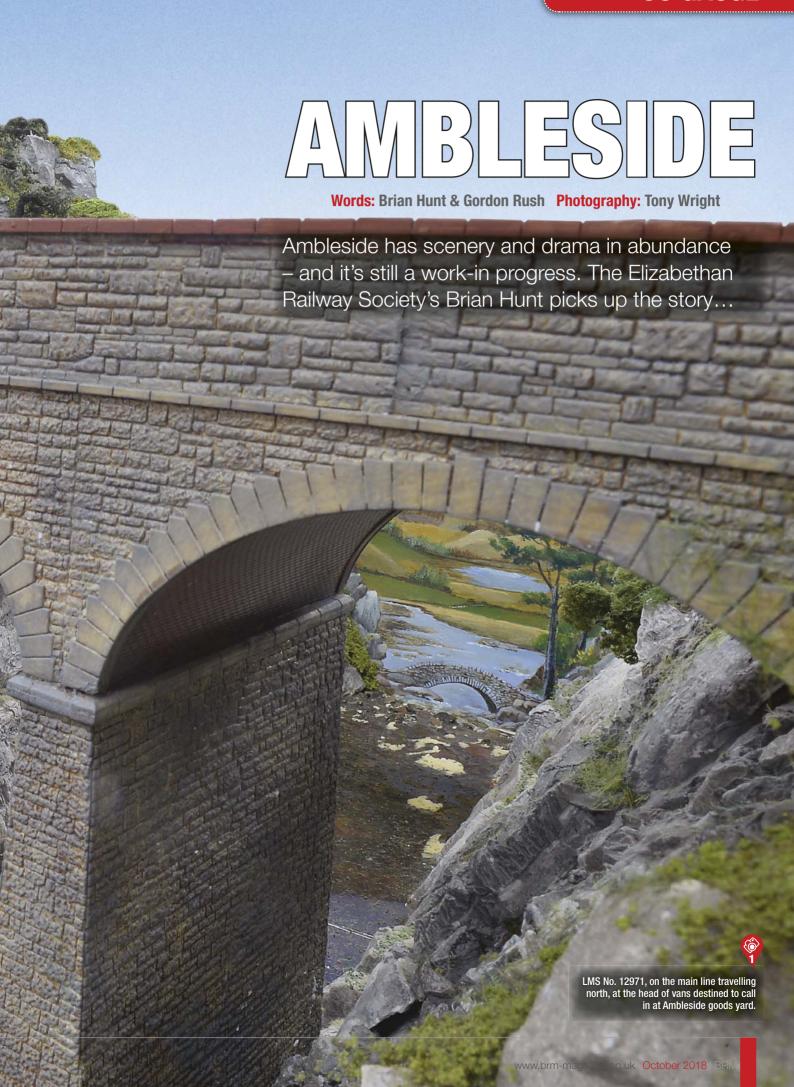
We've put together the perfect Beginner's Kit Building Tools package at a massively discounted price. You get: Sanding Block - 10mm, Craft Knife & A6 Cutting Mat set, A4 seal-heal cutting mat, 6" (150mm) steel rule (flexi), 4" engineers square, reverse action fibre grip tweezers - curved, LED handheld magnifier (x2.5). This pack has an RRP of £49.85 but we're offering this to BRM readers for the discounted price of just £39.85 (which includes P&P)! To take advantage of this special offer, see www. world-of-railways.co.uk/brm/store/reader-offers or call 01778 392002



Handy hints

- 1. Only cut parts from the sprue when you are ready to fit them. Less chance of losing something!
- 2. Use as little glue as possible. Any excess will just splurge out from the joins.
- 3. Always use a sharp knife. It's safer, as you won't try to use lots of pressure to cut anything, only to slip and cut yourself.





t is often said that a layout is never finished, and this is certainly true of the Elizabethan Railway Society's 4mm finescale layout 'Ambleside'. When I was able to re-join the club a few years ago there was still some track to lay and of course all of it needed wiring up and the scenery to do. 'Ambleside' is one of three 00 layouts owned by the club, but this is the only one that we have built from scratch. It has been the work of three or four members, although the faces have changed over time and it must be said that most of us involved are not quick workers. The history of the layout dates back to a design by the late Peter Wright, with the aim of creating something that would interest both operators and viewers. I think that we are well on the way to achieving that. 'Ambleside' is a junction with branches going to Coniston in one direction and Pooley Bridge in the other. As it stands the layout is

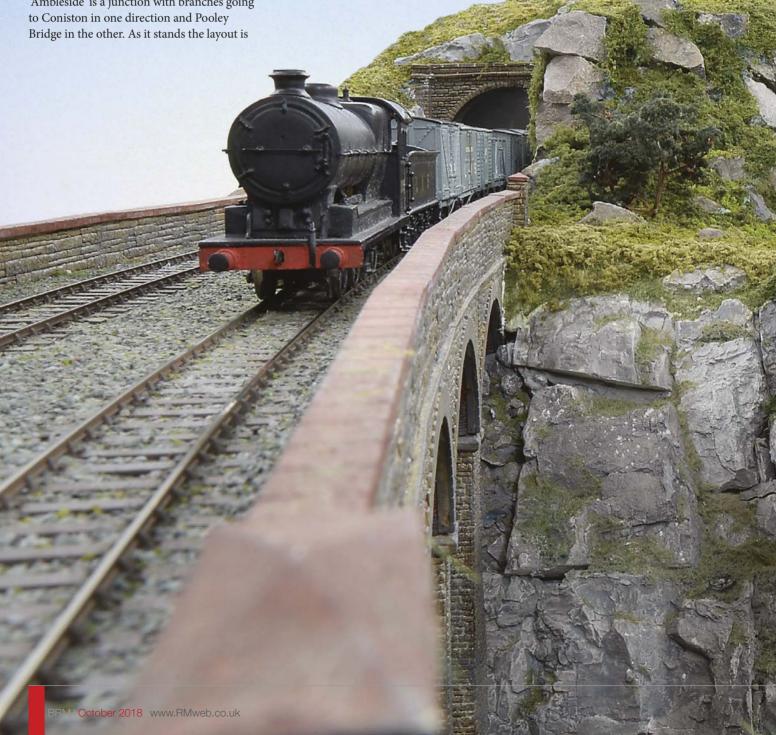
far from complete, but we are now prepared to exhibit it with the rider that it is a work in progress.

CONSTRUCTION

The club room does enable us to have the layout fully erected but because it sits inside a permanent raised 0 gauge layout access to the outer parts means that we have to work in sections. The baseboards are made from ply and, as you can see from the plan, the boards are curved but they are in matched pairs to make transport easier. This also means that the track crosses the joints at right angles, which hopefully will give more reliable running. Pattern makers dowels are used for alignment and locking catches hold the boards firmly together. The use of

ply has made it relatively straightforward to incorporate the gradients for the two branch lines – there are actually three different levels in the fiddle yard.

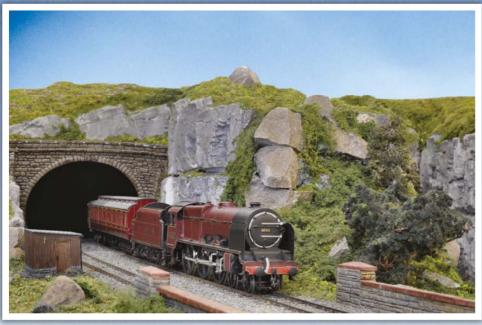
With the boards complete and covered with cork they were ready for the track. Templot software was used to create full-sized plans which were used to mark out the boards and specifically make templates for the numerous hand built points. Plain track is SMP and the points are rail soldered to copper clad sleepers. Wherever possible crossovers have been built as one unit and, for example, a section of the fiddle yard contains a unit with five points. This



method of building points has also had the benefit of encouraging members to learn new skills, which is one of the good things about belonging to a club. The points are operated by good, old-fashioned H&M solenoid motors mounted on home-made bases, which should enable quick and easy replacement in the unlikely event of a failure. These bases also incorporate micro switches for changing frog polarity.

to make the rock formation we made numerous plaster casts using Woodland Scenic moulds, these were fixed using more plaster

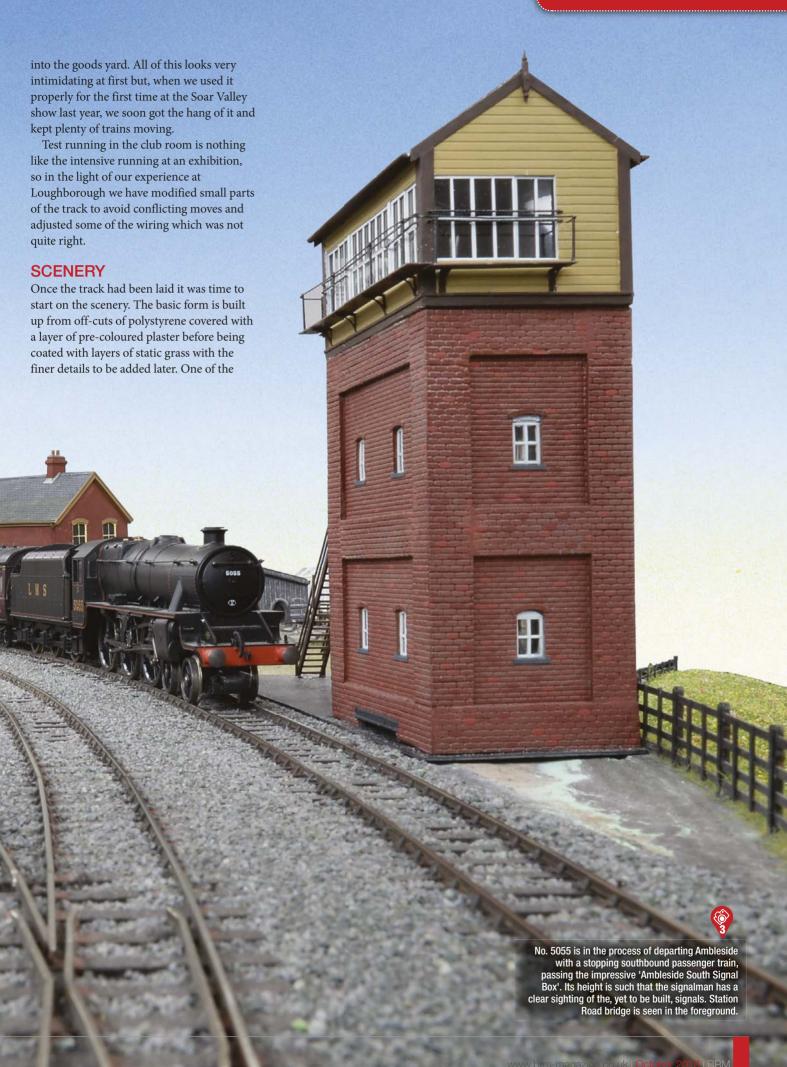




LMS No. 6102, at the head of a north-bound stopping passenger train emerges from the tunnel and is about to traverse the stone viaduct (built from Wills units) on its approach to 'Ambleside'.

in the dark art of DCC. As such the control is analogue, which gives running rights to as many people as possible. The philosophy behind the wiring diagram is to avoid a mass of cables coming from a central control panel, so for each board there is a small panel that operates the points along with a mimic diagram indicating the track sections which are in turn controlled by rotary switches that are built into the side of the boards. At the moment we use four Modelex hand-held controllers, but there is provision to increase the number should we need to. Basically, this is one each for the up and down main lines. The branch lines are operated independently and the goods yard is usually under the control of the Coniston branch. Each section switch can be set for any controller giving full flexibility to operations, for example when we want to bring a freight train





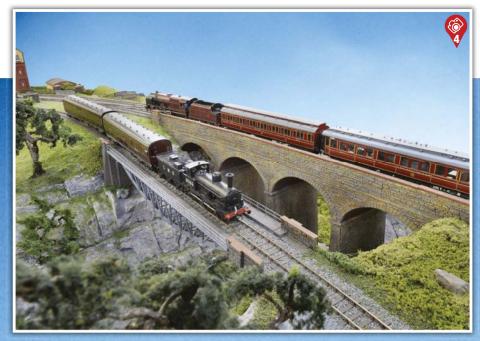
eye-catching features of Ambleside is the river gorge, which is crossed by a viaduct and a fishbelly girder bridge. To make the rock formation we made numerous plaster casts using Woodland Scenic moulds, these were fixed in place with more plaster. I should add that some cheap black acrylic paint was added to the mix before pouring into the mould. The viaduct itself is a modified Wills product adapted to fit the curve and piers have been added to the bottom of the upright masonry. As for the girder bridge, that is a Faller kit, which is far easier and cheaper than scratch-building one. For the river we used the tried and tested method of coats of yacht varnish, with a few genuine Lake District rocks embedded – in fact a few more have been used around the layout.

BUILDINGS

If you're going to build a layout with a station it goes without saying that some buildings will be required. In our case we have made use of several of the Townstreet plaster kits. The main one being the station building which has extra detail added, most notably the platform canopies. Other large structures from the same source are the goods shed and the engine shed, using these kits has given the layout a certain amount of cohesion. We are not averse to using ready-to-plant buildings. The workmen's cottages are a case in point, but they still need a bit of work to individualise them. At present we have two signal boxes, although we really need another. One is a Townstreet kit and the other is a cabin from London Road Models, with a scratch-built base to give a tall box. Several other buildings have been used on previous club layouts and have now been recycled.

STOCK

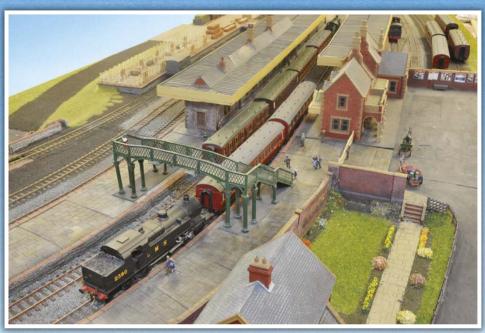
When Ambleside is erected in the club room you may see all sorts of stock running, providing it has suitable wheels - even American diesels have been known. Going out to exhibitions is another matter and we run with LMS stock, but where that comes from depends on who is available to man the layout. Normally, we will be able to run with a reasonable amount of kit built stock, but this may well be supplemented by unmodified ready-to-run. After all, we each have different approaches to modelling and the majority of viewers are happy as long as there are plenty of trains running. Having said that, it is always nice to receive complements from more knowledgeable spectators!



LMS No. 8084 departs with the Coniston Branch passenger train from 'Ambleside' over the under-slung girder bridge (built from a Faller kit), whilst, on the main line, No. 6102 heads into 'Ambleside' with a northbound express (note the 12-wheel LMS Dining Car) on the stone viaduct.



when Ambleside is erected in the clubroom you may see all sorts of stock running, providing it has suitable wheels - even American diesels have been known



LMS No. 2380 departs with a southbound local passenger train, whilst the northbound 'stopper has yet to depart. Work is still required on left-hand pillar on footbridge.



K BY DETAILS

Ambleside Signal Box

Ambleside's three-storey signal box enjoys a lofty view over the layout. Its builder Brian Hunt explains how it was constructed.

When I was asked to build a tall signal box for Ambleside my first job was to do an internet search for suitable prototypes to use as a basis for the model. This was productive, as it contained photos of the London Road Models cabin which could be used and make the job much easier with only the base to scratch-build. The most useful photo that I found was of Lowton Junction, so I now had the information I needed to proceed.

Once we had acquired the cabin from LRM I started by building the main structure, as this would determine the dimensions for the footprint of the base. The height was a trial and error exercise, with cereal packet card until I got something that looked right

Doors and windows for the base were sourced from members' spares boxes so that suitable apertures could be cut. I was going to use the larger Wills brick sheet for the main carcase and the smaller, thicker sheets for the raised panels, so I needed to measure the thickness of the sheets in order that I could make the base match the cabin. Unfortunately, the small sheets are not big enough to cover the walls of the box in one piece, so it was necessary to have joints in the raised sections. This is where I discovered that the sheets vary in thickness, making it tricky to get neat joins. Filler and a

scriber helped to disguise these.

Happy that the cabin and base matched, the cabin was completed as per instructions. The walkway is left to the builder, although brackets are provided. A raid on the brass saved from the etches of kits that I have built yielded suitable pieces to make the walkway and the planks where scribed on. Handrails are just wire soldered up. The roof was fitted after painting and an interior fitted.

The base and the cabin were painted separately before being fixed together. For the cabin, I used white spay primer to make painting the window frames easier the rest was brush painted. On the base after a

primer coat I brush painted a base colour and the picked out random bricks in slightly different colours.

The steps are based on Plastruct mouldings, with handrail detail added from plastic strip. The central support was soldered up from brass angle and strip using a jig to hold things in place and to get the sides to match. It is always worth making a jig if you have to make several identical parts.

The finished structure is mounted on a plastic base, as we transport the buildings off the layout plus the fact that it also helps strengthen the rather fragile steps.



Things that still need to be done...



More people

At the time of writing there are no people of the layout. We have a few white metal figures, painted and ready to place in little cameos, but we really do need a lot of more, so we bought a bag of 100 plastic people. With a little work we'll add hats or handbags to make them more appropriate for the period.



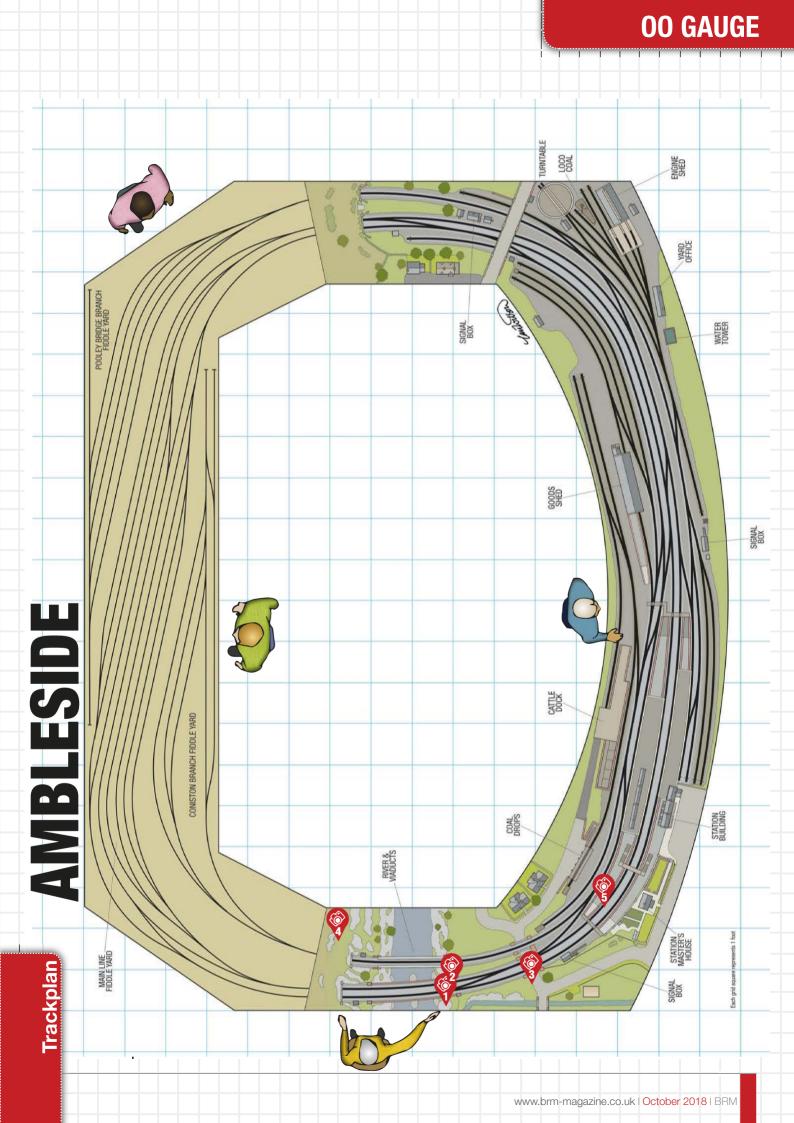
Engine shed upgrades

Another area that needs more attention is the engine shed. Apart from general clutter it will be nice to have a turntable that works.



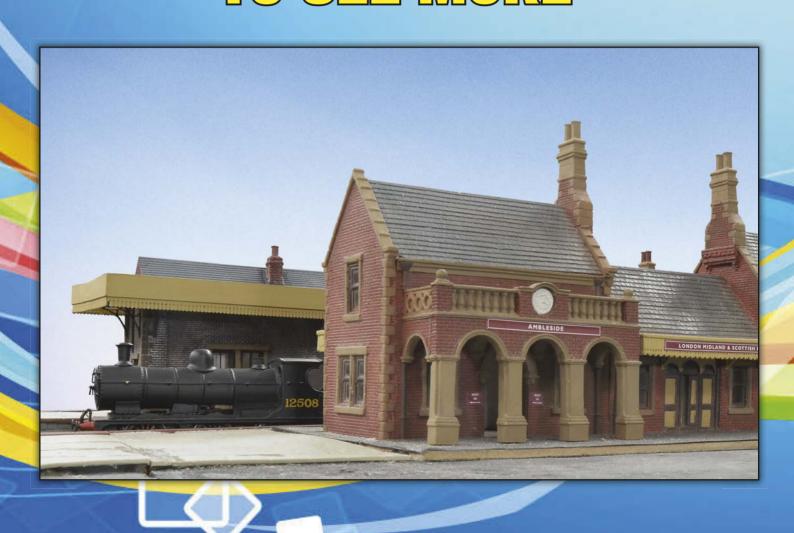
Working signals

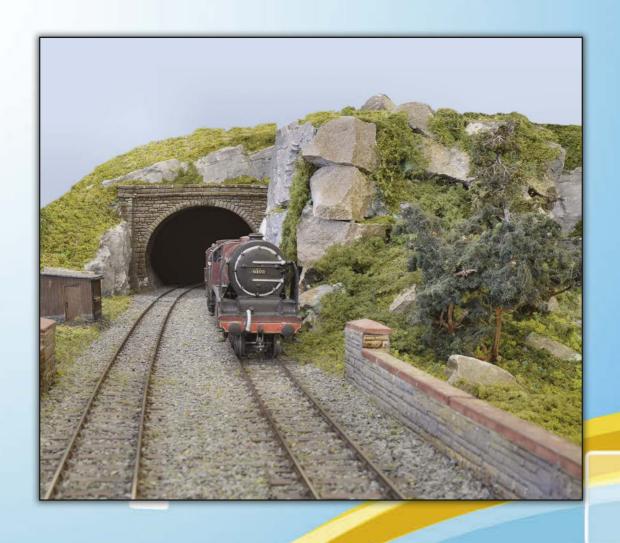
A signalman from the Great Central and has advised us on the correct placement of signals. We intend to have a lot of working signals, so we certainly have enough to keep us busy for years to come.



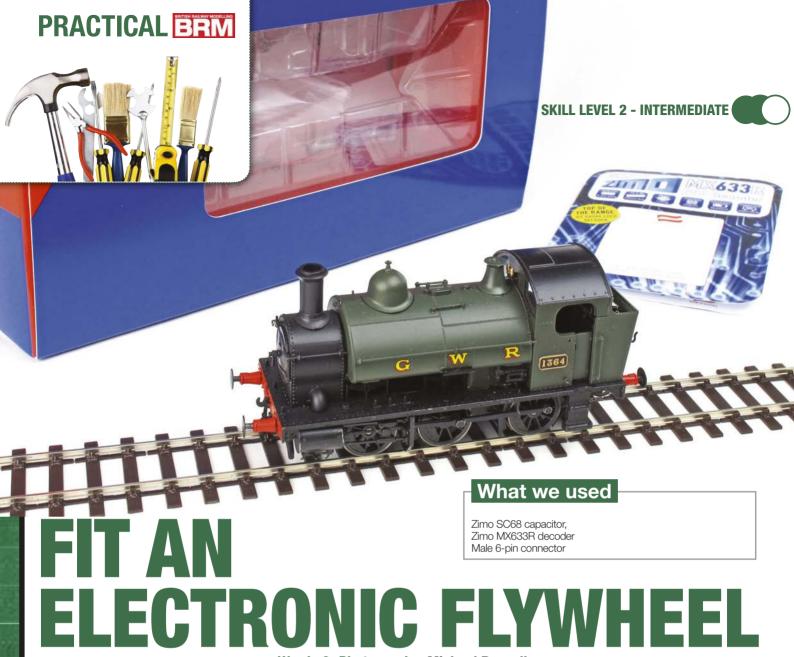
BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING Y

DIGITAL EDITION EXCENSIVE CUCKAND SWIPE IMAGES









Words & Photography: Michael Russell

Michael Russell's mission to improve locomotive running continues, with practical advice to add momentum to your models when required.

The Heljan 1361 model has some very nice features. However, I'm not keen on 6-pin DCC connections and I also wanted to fit an 'electronic flywheel' to improve reliability. In this project I show you how to make this change. The capacitor employed here has a rating of 6800uF, which is enough to keep the wheels on this locomotive turning for about three quarters of a revolution after the power has been withdrawn. This, I find, is more than

This project involves some delicate soldered connections and should not be contemplated unless you are happy with your skills in this area. I also removed the protective sleeve from the decoder. This is not something I would recommend, but space was very tight. Be aware that such modifications will invalidate your warranty.



Start to dismantle the model by removing the four screws that hold the cab in place.

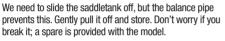


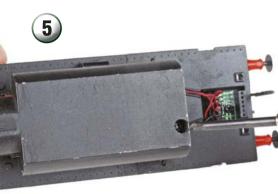
Remove the smokebox by undoing the single screw from underneath

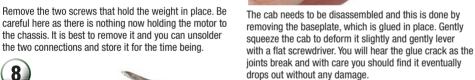




Slide the saddletank towards the front of the locomotive to remove it. It is a tight fit and you will need a firm grip. Be careful you don't damage the saddletank handrails, though, as they are quite delicate and are in a vulnerable position.









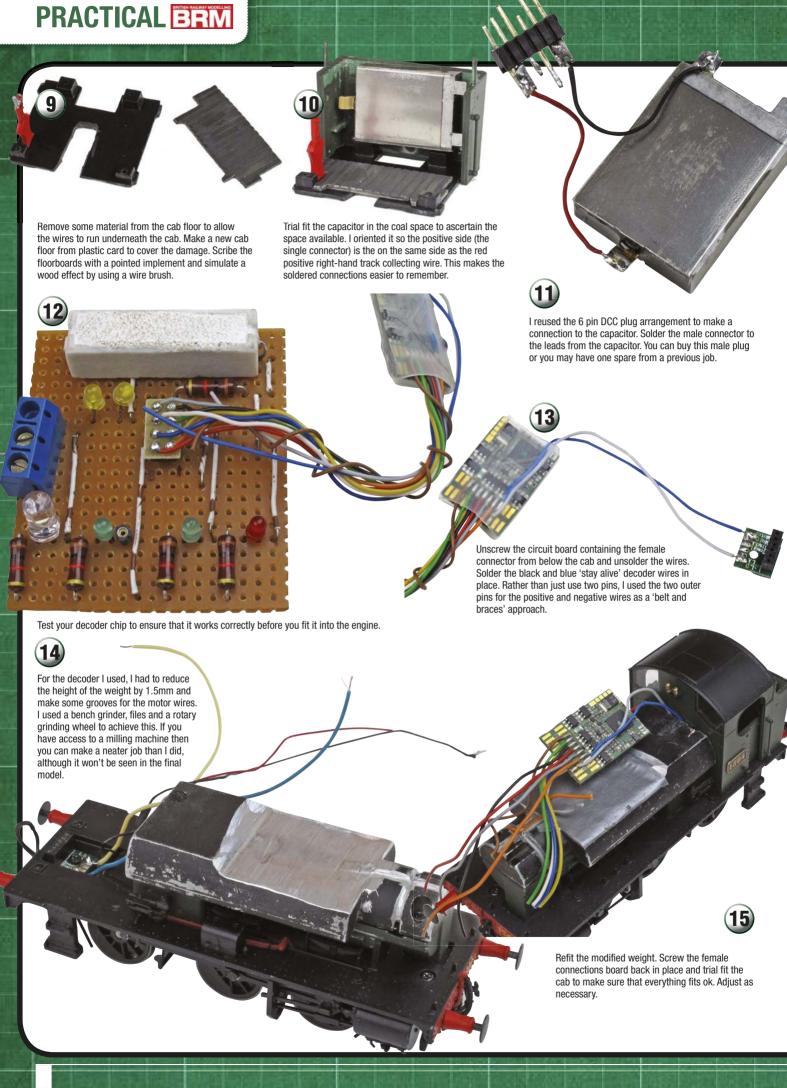
The coal space is covered over and we need to remove the top, by again by drilling a series of holes. Lever the imitation coal out of the way first – it is only held in place with double sided tape. The coal bunker will part company with the cab at this point, but this is not a problem.

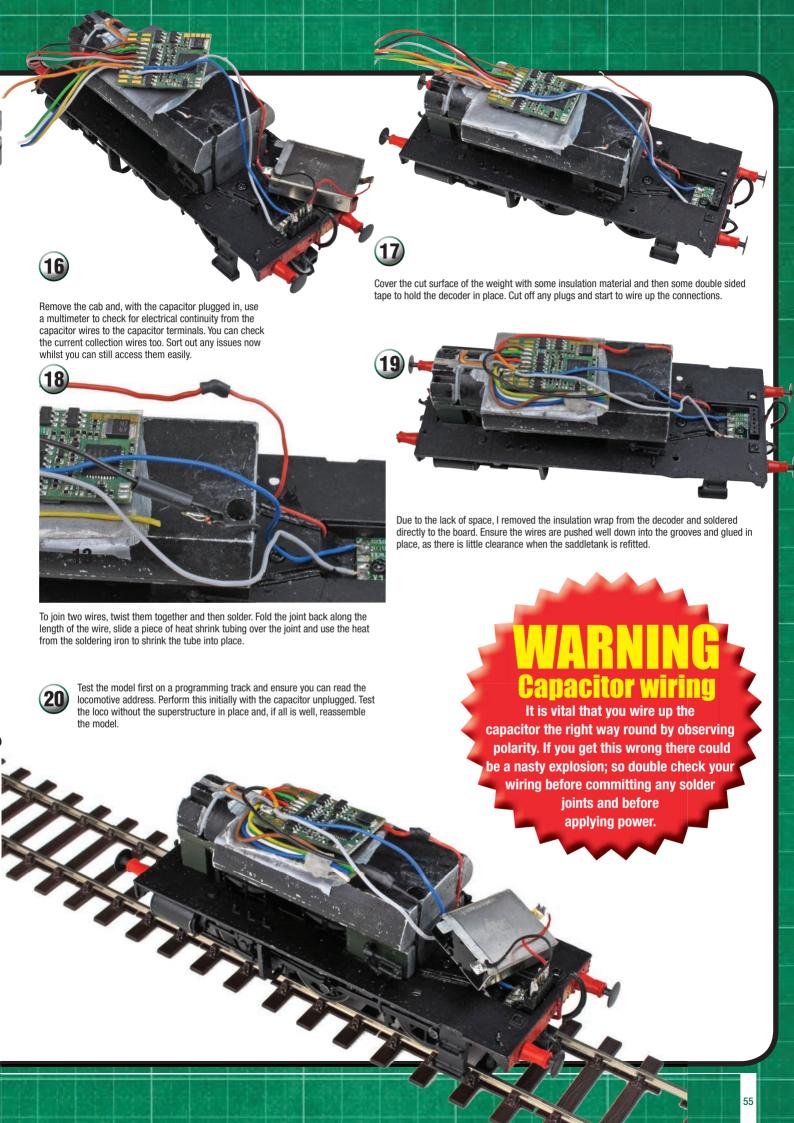


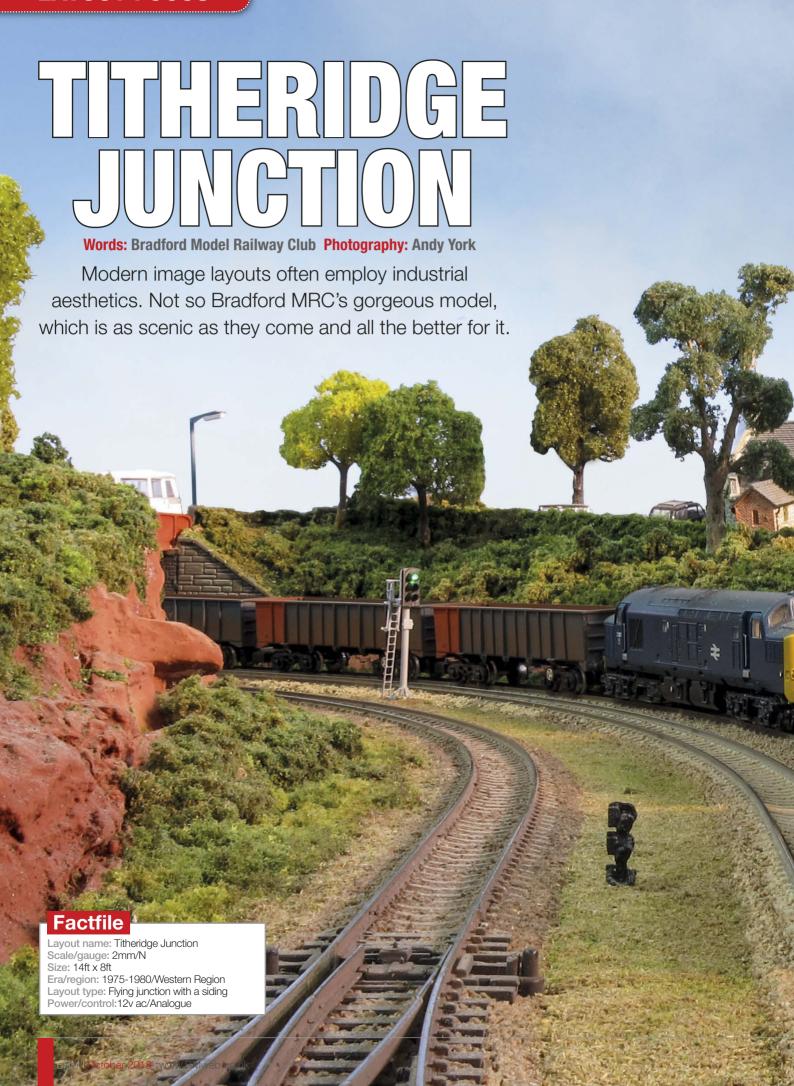
You need to make more room for wire runs by removing material from the cab front and the baseplate. You can do this by drilling a series of holes and cutting between them. Don't bother cleaning up the edges of the cut surfaces as it will all be hidden. The cab front has a double thickness of material and you can gently lever the backhead detail away to give yourself room.

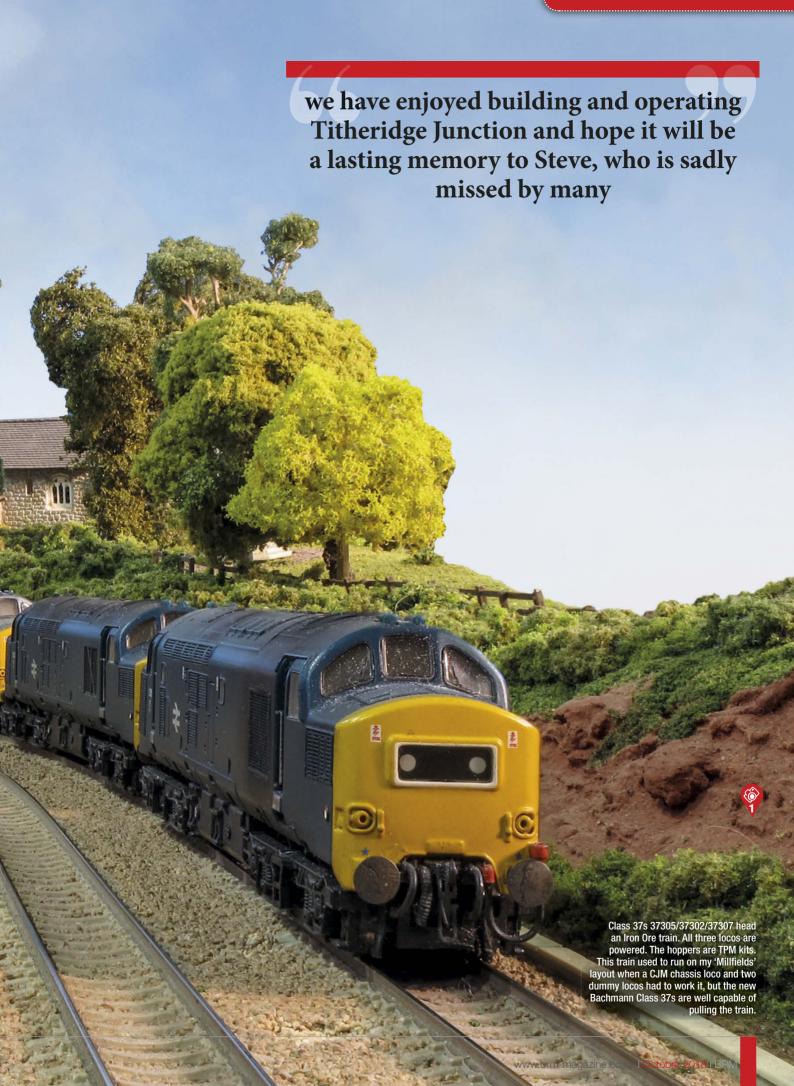
HINTS & TIPS

- If you find you dislodge parts from the model during the build, don't worry. I usually cause some damage when making changes of this magnitude. Immediately retrieve the parts and place them in the spares bag that came with the model. You can fit them back on at the end of the build.
- Keep an old, damaged decoder back for situations where you want to do a trial fitment.
 Alternatively, note the dimensions of your chosen decoder and build a plastic card replica of the same size
- Always wear eye protection when using rotary and bench grinding equipment
- When cutting and grinding metal components like weights, do so away from the locomotive and your workbench. Tidy up any sharp edges carefully and brush off any loose material. A quick rinse in cold water using a stiff brush can remove filings left in awkward recesses, but be sure to dry the item before reintroducing it to the model











aving just completed a new 14ft long, 14 road fiddle yard for our N gauge layout 'Dewsbury Midland' (which has now been scrapped) there was talk of using the fiddle yard as a multi-purpose unit for a new modern era N gauge club layout.

Coincidentally, N Gauge modeller Pauline McKenna, who is well known for her modern image layout 'Millfields' amongst others, had recently joined the club and this provided the motivation to make a start on something fairly simple that could be built quickly – in six months, to be precise. To add some interest and utilise all three double connections to the fiddle yard, a flying junction with a simple siding was conceived.

The name for the layout came from Pauline's late husband, Steve Titheridge, who was a freight train driver with DB Schenker, and who had passed away in 2012. Pauline and Steve were collecting stock for their next layout, which was going to be the Western region, so all this stock was used on the new Titheridge Junction layout.

Titheridge Junction consists of a double track main line at its heart, with a second double track main line emerging at the left hand end of the section in front. This then splits into two with one line climbing up and over the ground level double track. These lines all then converge at a junction in front of a creamery before passing through a bridge at the end of the scenic section.

Construction

The baseboards are 3ft 6in x 2ft constructed from 3in x 1in painted pine fitted with patternmakers locating dowels and toggle catches. This ensures accurate alignment between boards under different temperature and humidity conditions. Tops are 9mm quality birch plywood. All joints are glued and screwed. As far as possible, where track crosses the board joints, this is at right angles. This has not been used on previous layouts, so they suffered alignment difficulties when moved to different environments.

The legs are made of 2in x 1in pine slotted into recesses under the ends of each board. Each leg is fitted with adjustable feet. As is normal at Bradford, each board has its own pair of legs to form individual 'tables'. Although this requires more legs than sharing legs between boards or using A-frames, we find it much easier and safer at exhibitions as each board can be assembled and then pushed together. The overall size of the layout and 14 road fiddle yard is 14ft x 8ft.



A general view of the few buildings that are on 'Titheridge Junction'. The signal box is from Bachmann, while the dairy and old goods shed are Kestrel Kits. The track has been removed from the goods shed and turned into an engineering yard and a local lorry firm.

...ready-made buildings have been utilised where possible, although with the countryside theme the amount of building on Titheridge Junction is deliberately limited

Wiring

To be safe we keep all mains voltages away from our layout and use club designed and made plug-in standard power packs located on the floor and supplied from residual current device plug. These have been refined over the years and comprise of a sturdy metal enclosure, each of which contain two dualwound toroidal transformers for compactness and lightness and provide four circuit breaker protected outputs of 16VAC, the latest one having a capacity of 3A. Two outputs are used for the clockwise/anticlockwise handheld controllers, the other two being used for points and scenic lighting and accessories. Controllers are conventional analogue, with the outer and inner circuits kept electrically separate as far as possible so that failure in one doesn't bring the layout to a halt. The layout is sectioned so that each section can be connected to either controller. Point motors are SEEP, as these are relatively cheap, service-proven and match those on the club's N Gauge fiddle yard.

Some discussion was had too regarding the best way to operate the point motors. The Model Electronics Railway Group (MERG) C-Bus system has been so successful on both our N and 00 gauge fiddle yards it was decided, despite the much simpler plan, to adopt this.

A further innovation was to connect a latching relay in parallel with each SEEP motor to switch the point frogs and also light an indicator if required. This has worked on a limited trial on our 00 'Victoria Road' layout. The big benefit of this is that it avoids the difficulty we have found in positioning and maintaining SEEP motors centrally under the points in N gauge, where the limited throw of the point motors doesn't always keep the switch and point blades in agreement with where they should be. A possible downside of this is if the relay is not in the same position as the point blades when the layout is energised a track short will exist until the point is operated. However, we feel the gains outweigh the costs on this point.

K BY DETAILS

The landscape is formed of polystyrene blocks covered with lightweight filler painted dark brown and given a number of coatings of Woodland Scenics flock. The rock faces are also from Woodland Scenics and the tunnel mouths and retaining walls are from Peco.

Various small dioramas including a creamery, farm and church scenes have been added to create visual interest away from the railway. To speed up construction ready-made buildings have been utilised where possible, although with the countryside theme the amount of building on Titheridge Junction is deliberately limited

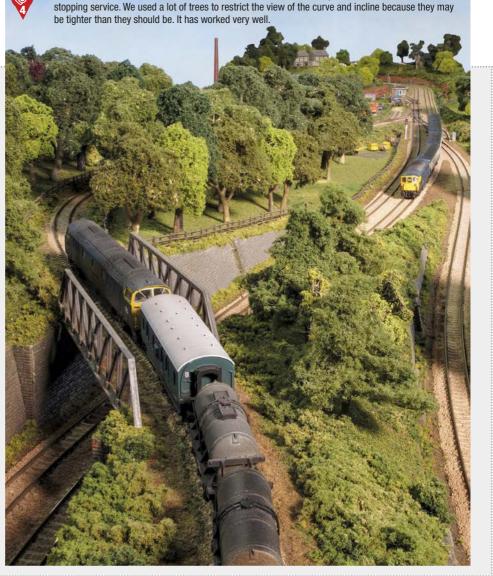
The track is Peco concrete sleeper code 55 with timber sleeper Peco points - all so far, so straightforward. But one thing we have realised over the years is how the application of ballast can make or break an otherwise good layout. We have used Woodland Scenics fine buff, which was painstakingly laid in the time-honoured way by Pauline who seems to have infinite patience for this sort of thing. Her technique was to carefully spread the ballast with her fingers, and fix it in place with a mix of diluted PVA and a dash of detergent using a fine paint brush. The track at the baseboard ends are soldered to paxolin pieces which have been glued and screwed to the board for safety when in transportation, and this allows the tracks to line up all the time

The working three aspect colour lights are from CR Signals, as we have used these successfully before. The junction signal has a working feather and looks most impressive despite its small size. The signals are operated by a module, which comprises an infra-red detector between the rails and timer so that on a train passing the signal it changes to red then yellow and back to green after a set time using magnets under all the trains.

Rolling Stock

All locomotives, coaches and freight stock are the latest examples from Bachmann and Dapol. The only old loco used is the Bachmann Peak, of which there are several, all being heavily modified and detailed. There is the odd train from the N Gauge Society (wagon kit number 1), and their ready-to-run coaches, six wheel Stove, Thompson and Collett, which are all done in BR blue, and Revolution trains (B tanks). I have also resurrected a train from the 'Millfields' layout – the TPM Iron Ore hoppers with three powered Class 37's.

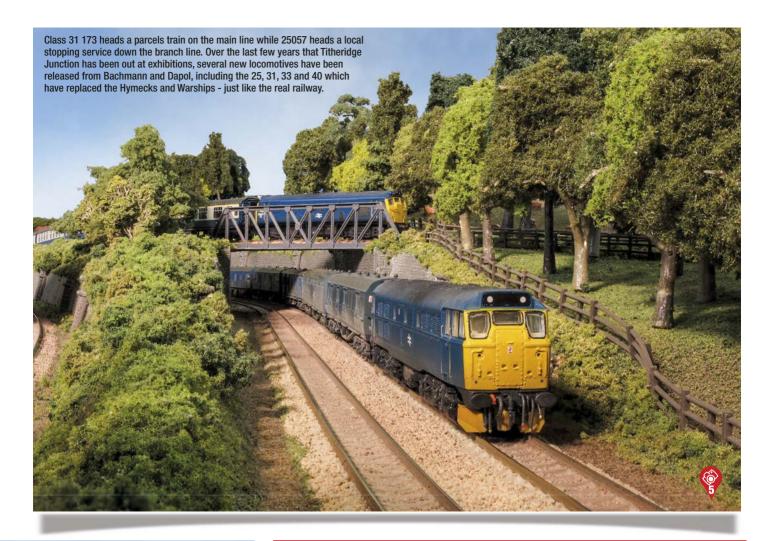
The locomotive pool started out with some Hymeks and Warships before Dapol's



D1058 Western Nobleman with a milk train made of N Gauge Society six-wheel Stove and Dapol

six-wheel milk tankers crosses the main line while 33102 is about to pass underneath with a local

Class 37 305/302/307 head the Iron Ore train across the junction on the main line. When I was making this train, I got three Class 37s and ran them around the test track to see if they were all the same, and they all stayed very close together. This is one of only two trains made up entirely of kit-built wagons. Note the transfers are only on one side of the wagons – as it only goes round the same way, the other side is not seen.





to add some interest and utilise all three double connections to the fiddle yard, a flying junction with a simple siding was conceived.

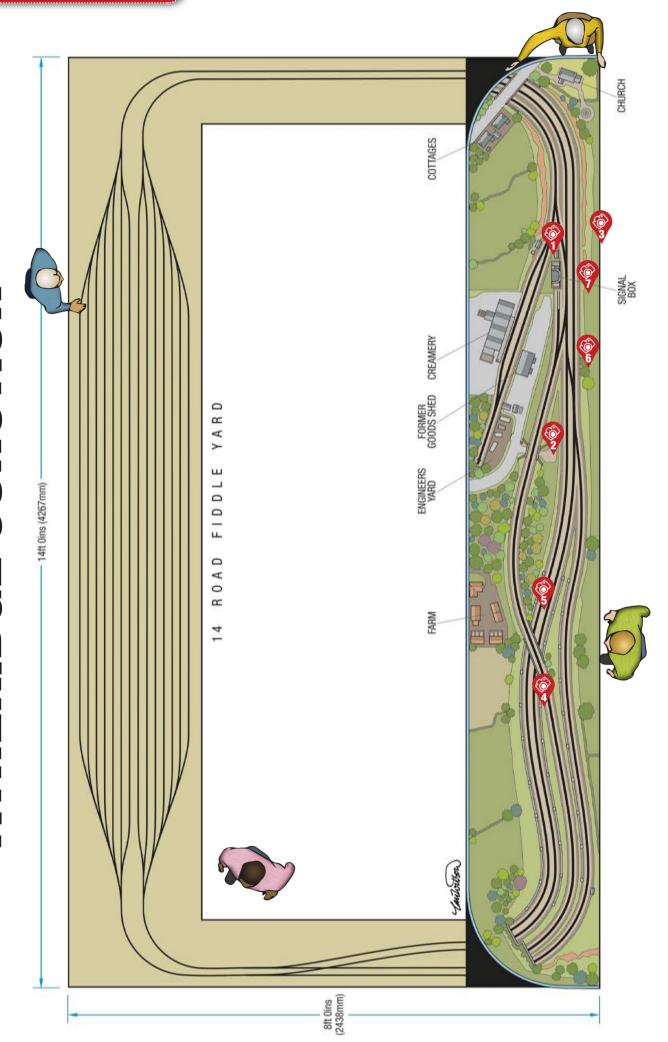
Western became available, along with the usual Class 20, 24, 37, 44, 45, 46, 47 and a CJM Class 50. The odd Deltic could make an appearance too, but as the new Class 25, 31, 33, 40 came out, the Hymek and Warship got replaced, so the period is now TOPS (1975-1980) but there are still plenty of Westerns. All locos have buffer beam detail and are lightly weathered, with the last wagon/coach of each train having a detailed end. Some of the freight trains, such as the box vans and cement hoppers, have had the coupling changed to short shank couplings. This brings the wagons closer to about 1mm between buffers, which also looks a lot better. All the coaching stock have had couplings mixed with long and short NEM couplings to bring them closer together, again which looks good as they go round the scenic side.

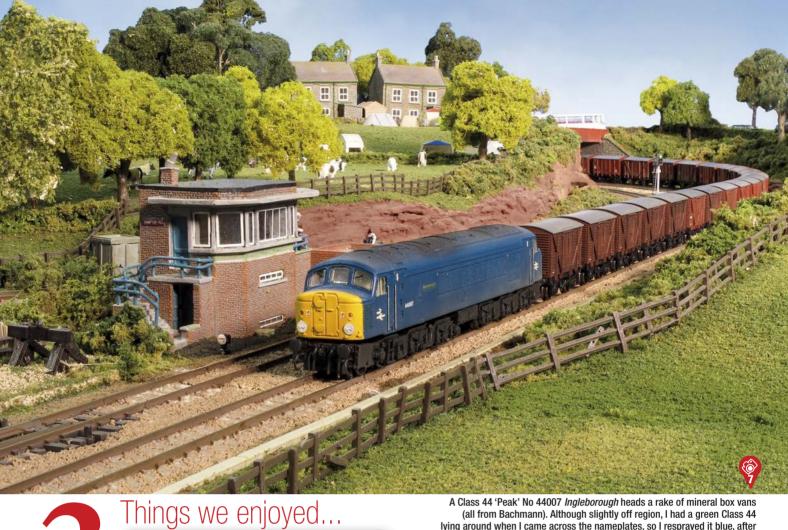
Exhibition Debut

We believe simplicity is the key to operation and, while some of the electrics do sound complicated, in reality it's no more difficult than wiring up points and switches for the first time.

We have had many failures when setting up at shows over the years, and we also believe that when we are exhibiting we have an obligation to entertain the public by keeping the trains running. That's why we've gone to the trouble of using some of these devices

We have enjoyed building and operating Titheridge Junction and hope it will be a lasting memory to Steve, who is sadly missed by many. The layout made its first appearance in 2014, but many changes have taken place since then, when new rolling stock became available.





A prial of Class 37s A staple of many

modern image layouts, but why have one Class 37 running when three working in partnership will do the job just as well!





Long rakes

The benefits of N gauge are manifold, but it's still a pleasure to see such long rakes of wagons in operation.



BRM photos are largely posed, of course, but it's obvious there's plenty of scope for multi-train operations. See for yourself at the Wigan show on October 6 - 7 and the Crewe exhibition on November 10 - 11.

A Class 44 'Peak' No 44007 Ingleborough heads a rake of mineral box vans (all from Bachmann). Although slightly off region, I had a green Class 44 lying around when I came across the nameplates, so I resprayed it blue, after narrowing the bogies and detailing. This is one of five Peaks that appear, being from the old Bachmann split (not DCC-ready) chassis.





DIGITAL EDITOR EXCELSIVE

DETAIL A CLASSIC AUTOCOACH

Phil Parker updates the venerable Airfix autocoach, the stalwart of a great many railway layouts, bringing it bang up to date with more modern RTR variants.



WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

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Swindon Shed in the sixties:

A photograph taken at Swindon shed just a few weeks after the author's first spell of duties over the Christmas and New Year period in December 1964 and January 1965 shows a variety of motive power on view. A BR 204 hp shunter, still without any yellow and black warning chevrons, is on the left with a North British Type 2 lurking in the shadows of the shed behind a 'Western'. The only identifiable locomotive is D7092, but there is also an English Electric Type 3 and further examples of 'Westerns' and 'Hymeks' on view. RAIL ONLINE

David McPherson was inspired to write this account of his time at Swindon shed by a photograph that appeared in the May 1995 issue of TRACTION. It showed Brush Type 4s and 'Hymeks' standing outside the shed in June 1965 and was taken when he was the interim mechanical foreman at Swindon shed.

The first to call duty

After completing an apprenticeship at Swindon Locomotive Works, I was allocated to Bristol Division as a supernumerary technical assistant. This included training at Bath Road shed and also in the Divisional Offices with Traction Control, amongst others, and the use of a regional footplate pass, covering the entire WR network as far north as Birmingham. Then, for my first supervisory role, I was instructed to go to Swindon shed for a week between Christmas and New Year 1964/5 to relieve Jock, the very able chargehand of the maintenance

Starting work on 29th December, a day was spent getting to know people, the shed's layout and workload. Taking up the cudgels on the 30th, we had stopped on shed D7071, D7012, D1067, D1048 (hydraulic lock -

coolant in one or more cylinders of one of the two Maybach engines), D2126, D7016 (faulty air compressor), D2143, 15100 and D1724.

The last day of the year brought D1013 (failure, loss of coolant), D9517 (coupled to the dynamometer car), D9516 and three steam locomotives: 92000, 48097 (16E - Kirby) and 73093.

During my apprenticeship, the New Year's birth was heralded by an almighty racket from the shed as all rostered personnel would sound the whistle of any loco in steam. On a still night the din could be heard up in Highworth, so I was reliably informed by workmates living there. I guess the whistles of only the three steam locos were but the dying breath of an era almost ended.

New Years Day 1965 found 15100 back on shed, also D7009 (a faulty compressor),

D2126 was still there, obviously either waiting materials or undergoing a routine examination, D7012 and D7040 (both probably in for examinations). I have no records of what was on shed on 2nd January because much of that day was spent with the breakdown vans (BDVs) at Hullavington, on the South Wales cut-off line.

D7009, with repairs completed, hauled us off shed at 10.50 a.m, arriving at the District Engineers Sidings at 11.40 to re-rail one of their 4-wheel ballast wagons, off all its wheels. It was a jack and pack and traverse job taking an hour and ten minutes. Back on the BDVs, we got the road off site at 1.30 p.m. arriving on shed by 2.45 p.m., being delayed at Brinkworth by a freight shunt.

It must have been a close run thing, for I was at the London end of Swindon station by 3.13 p.m. to board D1043 working the late-



Built by Hawthorn Leslie in 1936 and numbered No. 2 by the GWR it was renumbered 15100 by BR and allocated to Swindon until withdrawal in 1965. 15100 is seen at Swindon shed on the 14th February 1965. RAIL ONLINE

running 3.09 p.m. Up Bristol. Once on the footplate, the crew told me they had engine troubles so going back into the noisy engine room I saw the loco's 'B' engine had a bad coolant leak on its turboblower, and that 'A' engine's revs only reached 1200 to 1300 revs on full power. After getting off at Reading, I rang Bristol Traction Control and Bath Road shed to let them know. Such youthful zeal no doubt was the bane of traction controllers and mechanical foremen!

The second to call duty

"You are to go to Swindon shed for 6 weeks and deputise for the retiring mechanical foreman, pending appointment of his replacement." So said my boss in late March 1965. "It will assist you in furthering your practical experience." My previous week at the turn of the year there couldn't have been too bad.

Thus, at 7.30 a.m. on a dull April Monday morning just before Easter, with some trepidation I re-entered the comparatively large and gloomy office of the mechanical foreman inside the lingering smoky atmosphere of Swindon shed. This would be the acid test, proving myself in a real job and working five and a half days a week.

One of the attractions of Swindon shed was that it handled all the ex-works locos, and so kept a close involvement in what went in and was released from the 'Factory'. It also was roughly the halfway point between London and Bristol or Cardiff, so that if a driver was unhappy with the performance of his locomotive, Swindon was a logical place to exchange it for something better.

1965 was the closing year of steam on the Western Region; only Gloucester Horton Road shed had any significant allocation of steam remaining in our area. Steam still sometimes worked through to Swindon, and we occasionally got a sniff of one on

shed, but Swindon (82C) was predominately considered to be an outstation of Bristol Bath Road, so we saw much of their allocation of 'Hymeks' for routine servicing.

Many drivers were still wary of the intricacies of diesel traction, as indeed were the shed maintenance staff. We were all feeling our way cautiously, and easily got tripped by obscure and sometimes simple faults.

I concentrated initially on overcoming a certain amount of scepticism from the staff and the outgoing mechanical foreman, who wondered why management had let loose a greenhorn still wet behind the ears to replace a person of over forty year's service. There was one major difference between us, however, which became clearer in time. I at least had some understanding of diesel traction, whereas my predecessor was a dyed-in -the-wool steam man.

Later that first day I was reunited with an old friend - D7024, of Bath Road. Dear old '24. Three years earlier, I'd been granted a footplate pass and ridden this locomotive on the down 'Pembroke Coast Express' to Cardiff, in the days when 13 bogies would be hung on the hook from Paddington. The controller on the loco was opened up to the full position by Royal Oak and then left untouched (signals and permanent way checks excepting) until clearing Chipping Sodbury Tunnel around 100 miles later. And you'd be lucky to see 70 mph to that point. Then, only a few months previously, she'd been taken out of traffic at Bath Road for over five weeks whilst a new problem - severely worn brake rod bushes and pins was tackled. The solution was to obtain and fit a complete new set of brakegear for both bogies. Guess who poured over schematic drawings to identify every part, then wrote out all the material requisitions and who subsequently did a fair bit of expediting, too?

The Organisation

The mechanical foreman's office was inside the shed, a dark gloomy place. Being only temporary, I did little to change the office around. In fact I cannot even remember how the filing system worked, if there was one! With the 'Factory' next door there seemed little point in keeping reams of information about the diesels, since there were plenty of specialists tucked away in the drawing offices on the station or in the research and development offices or down at the erecting shop, in most cases a phone call or 10 minutes walk away.

The fitters and fitters' mates were all steam men who were building expertise daily in their grappling with diesel traction. By now, most were pretty competent but we were all still learning. Of the electricians, at least one had graduated from the old school of wiring up the A.W.S. (automatic warning system) and speedometer systems on steam locos. They worked to a regular shift roster, though I never really fathomed out its detail. Events like holidays and sickness cover were largely rubber stamped after they'd worked it out themselves.

There was a production bonus system for the maintenance people I supervised but, as I recall, few were penalised significantly below the minimum 100% bonus. This was calculated at great expense in standard minutes by an army of white-coated time and motion experts. The system made for logical progression of work, but unplanned work was the stumbling block. This could be the need to replace a severely rusted brakegear pin, drill out a sheared off bolt with the threaded part still in a housing, or simply rectifying a mistake.

I remember a poor fitter tasked to change an injector on a Maybach engine accidentally knocking one of the holding nuts he'd removed when he pulled off the injector. It fell through the injector hole into the cylinder and lodged on top of the piston. After half a day of fruitless fishing, the cylinder head had to come off – over a day's work for a standard 15 minute job! There were times when some very creative thinking was applied to convince the foreman that all the necessary standard minutes had been put in (or down on paper) to salvage that bonus!

Versatility was essential, and this we had in our chargehand, a ginger haired Scotsman in his early 40s. Jock was a real tower of strength and as good a fitter as you could ever meet. Quiet, self-effacing and full of practical knowledge of steam and diesel, he was a typical example of the very best person who led by example, but who kept a close eye on all activities we carried out. He was normally also in charge on breakdowns as well.

Swindon's shedmaster Jack Chaplin was a dour North Countryman with a heart of gold. A very experienced and practical man, with a fund of stories about the heady days of steam, he also had the gift of being firm when necessary yet able to defuse a rising temper with a couple of well chosen words. He was a



D1067 is seen outside Swindon shed in May 1965, RAIL ONLINE

and much respected. We got on well, which was a huge benefit.

People

Overall the maintenance crew at Swindon was, in my opinion, very competent. I well remember Jock taking a 3/16 inch sliver off the edge of a DMU metal lifting pad 8 inches long with hammer and chisel. I swear that the thickness of the swarf curling off his chisel head didn't vary by more than a thousandth's part of an inch... and that was with a high ranking audience looking on! The fitters were, in the main, easy to get along with, but one I remember clearly was an old steam man who detested diesels and all they represented. Then well into his 60s, each job on a diesel was anathema to him and got his temper on the boil.

One day when I was in the office, one of the fitters came to me and suggested I ought to look at this chap as he was going berserk. I'd just given him an exam to do on a 'Hymek'. I went into the shed and became aware of a constant clatter. Rounding a wall, there he was, standing at the new cupboard we had which contained all the socket sets for diesel loco maintenance. The doors were open and a silver shower of wrenches, sockets and extension bars was pouring over his head and cascading into the pits behind him. The 'Hymek', the cause of this outburst of energy, stood forlornly just out of reach, but well within earshot of a steady stream of invective as he grabbed every item in the cupboard and flung it in temper over his head. By now, a crowd of interested drivers, firemen, fitters

and shedmen were quietly watching this spectacle, and we were eventually joined by the shedmaster. The cupboard emptied, the temper expired then he looked around him. A thousand pounds worth of sophisticated (for the railways) chromed tools lay glittering on the ground and in the pits.

"Feel better now?" asked the shedmaster in a kindly voice.

"Feel much better if I was out of this bloody place" was the reply.

"You aren't going ANYWHERE until you've picked up every tool and put it back EXACTLY where it came from," thundered the shedmaster. "And don't you ever throw a tantrum like that again or you'll be out of here faster than a jack rabbit."

So the 'Hymek' had to wait another half hour for the clean up.

Poor chap, he got his wish later on. The divisional loco superintendent paid a rare visit shortly before I left and interviewed him. I cringed as the DLS listened impassively to the usual tirade about how he hated working here and only wanted to quit.

"Very well," said the Locomotive Superintendent. "I will make one phonecall and confirm you can collect your pay now, then you can go. The Mechanical Foreman will make sure you leave all your railwayissued property behind."

He made the call and in moments the deed was done. I don't know who was more shocked, since the administration were better known for procrastination. But within 15 minutes Swindon Shed's establishment was down by one.

Swindon shed was also good for teaching me about racial differences. We had a Jamaican on shed, quite a rare sight in Swindon in those days, and he was an excellent fitter with a keen sense of humour and got on well with everyone. You could get into rational discussions and get honest opinions from his perspective. The most memorable observation he made to me, which I found extremely useful later on when working in London and overseas, was that tensions arose as a result not always from bigotry but of attitude.

"If you want to feel put-upon, then that's what you'll become and it's how people will treat you," he said. Perhaps he'd already read Norman Vincent Peale's book 'The Power of Positive Thinking'. It was another 20 years before I did, and 30 years before I heard the phrase 'Victim Mentality'!

Daily workload

Life settled into a pattern. Starting work between 7.30 and 8.00 a.m. I soon found it rare to leave much before 5.30 p.m. at night. First thing each morning I'd go straight to the running foreman's office to find out what had failed and come onto the shed overnight.

The daily workload was primarily to carry out formal examinations in line with MP 11, service the runners which had failed for minor reasons and get them back on the road again, and be available to respond if there was a call-out of the breakdown vans. I remember a critical task was to telephone Divisional Office each morning the list of locos 'stopped-on-shed'. From previous



The author's records show that D2086 received attention to its fan as well as brake blocks and belt changes in July and August 1965. It is seen at Swindon shed, stabled down the west side with another member of the same class. Note the steam era 82C shed plate. RAIL ONLINE

knowledge I knew this list ended up with the traction controllers. It was a useful way also of getting Divisional Office heavyweights more involved in expediting materials for waiting locos.

We had a good rapport, viewed from today's perspective, with the shift running foremen. Initially it was too good, for my previous involvement with Bristol Control led me to take short cuts and make decisions without always letting the running foremen know. It was a very irate foreman who approached me one morning to tell me in words of one syllable to let him know in future what was going on.

It seemed that a previous day's failed Brush Type 4 had been repaired but the train heating boiler didn't work. We'd looked at it but for some reason had elected to refer it back to home depot. I'd rung Control to release the loco and work it back home on freight only. Unfortunately, Control logged the loco as available, and consequently it was turned out to replace a failure on an overnight sleeper, only to have to replace it further down the line after the crew failed to get the boiler working.

Deployment of the shed crew was conditional on workload, and that was usually discussed with the running foreman on arrival at work each morning. He'd provide a stopped list, and let you know the order in which he wanted locos released. The list showed:

- · which locos had failed and why
- when standing locos were likely to be released that day
- how many workings were uncovered (i.e. relying on the release of locos)
- which locos were subject to special Control arrangements (e.g. switching locos within their diagrams so as to return one or both of them to their home depots).

More often than not, the day's workload

would fall into shape automatically, with the Running Foreman saying for example:

"If Tom goes on 1064's earth fault, young Dick can do on 1013's burst hose Serck Oil pump. Harry should go on 2198's gearbox overhaul, Rog to finish off 4123's E exam, Sam can do daily servicing. We'll pull out 7048 for a 125 hour exam tomorrow. Have you a spare hose for 9505 over on 7 Road, she's lost her water? By the way, Control tell us to expect 1073 shortly. The B bogie intermediate final drive is running very hot. It could be a 'Factory' job but perhaps Dick could have a dekko to make sure it's not something simple like low oil level?"

You soon learnt which foreman was trying it on for size, and acted accordingly. Otherwise your fitter or electrician wouldn't hesitate to tell you how the old so-and-so was setting him up most unfairly 'cos it was a lousy job and it was time someone else took their turn!

Urgent vehicle standing

The 'UVS' (urgent - vehicle stopped) system was an important feature of life. The daily callover of stopped locos to Bristol laid considerable emphasis on specifying the material needed to get the loco back into traffic. Often the seemingly petty things could be the most awkward to obtain: - windscreen wiper blades, window catches, door locks, cab heaters. The running foremen needed a very persuasive tongue to convince a driver to take out a loco on a rainswept night when the driver's side window wouldn't shut. Forget about the openness of the steam loco footplate; the running foremen lost that argument the first week that diesels were introduced!

Funnily enough, the more 'vital' bits of equipment that tended to fail such as injectors, fuel pumps, hoses, safety switches

rarely held up locomotives, since these items were cannibalised from 'goers' that were undergoing hourly exams, on the basis that the replacement would be procured before the robbed loco was ready for traffic. Complications sometimes arose, of course, when locos had been standing waiting material for long periods. It then usually became necessary to carry out an intensive investigation to see what was missing. The highlight, to me, occurred sometime previously at Bath Road. A Brush 4 had been stabled for some weeks on a dead road 'UVS' and, when word had been received that the missing parts were on their way, was dragged inside for this almost obligatory investigation. You can almost imagine the look on the mechanical foreman's face during his inspection as he viewed the vacant space where once sat a train heating boiler.

Interaction with the loco works

Naturally, Swindon shed was in an excellent position to minimise waiting material time for hydraulic locos, with the Western Region's storehouse next door, together with a great big erecting shop full of out-of-traffic locos!

So it wasn't long before I re-established contacts with workmates in the 'Factory' since the shedmaster and the running foremen naturally, once they knew my background, had me begging, borrowing and stealing spare parts from them for 'Hymeks', 'Westerns' and shunters that were stopped waiting for parts on shed.

Many was the time I tramped across the Cheltenham lines, round by Swindon Works Drawing Office and set off westwards down to the AE Shop to get various small items such as high tensile bolts, or bits of brakegear (often for rodding damaged by lineside debris), or safety switches on pressure or temperature duty.



The author found the fault with D1006 on a Bristol to Paddington express which had one engine inoperative. He spotted the problem through the perspex side window at Swindon station. Later that year D1006 Western Stalwart is seen ready to depart from Cheltenham St.James on 27th November 1965. The 'Western' had taken over the special from No.7029 Clun Castle, working the last steam hauled train out of Paddington. The 'Castle' had brought the train from Paddington to Gloucester via Bristol. D1006 returned the train to Gloucester where Clun Castle took the train on to Swindon, being replaced there by two English Electric Type 3s for the return to London.

In an attempt to solve problems keeping the 'Westerns' windows clear of water. tests were carried out on D1039 and D1006. They were fitted with a disc that rotated in much the same way as those fitted to the windows of the bridges of ships, with an electric motor being used to rotate the screen. The test proved unsuccessful due to the reduction in visibility through the screen. RAIL ONLINE

I also recall visiting the AE Shop on one unusual occasion at Control's request. It was a Friday morning and they wanted to know if a BR Sulzer Type 4 would be ready for release by that evening. It was an London Midland Region based loco and an opportunity had cropped up to work it back to its home depot 'up North'. Obviously the formal approach to Swindon Works hadn't been beneficial but my chat with a former chargehand drew a favourable response, and result.

It was not too long before the less than comforting feeling arose that I was being used. My 'Factory' colleagues began to indicate they had their own problems too, but we managed to keep amicable contacts until I left. Having established some credibility in Bristol Traction Control also helped, since that occasionally offered the chance to rearrange the scheduling of locos, diagrams and drivers for a number of different reasons.

With steam clearly being consigned to history, one Saturday we were visited by representatives of the embryonic Dart Valley Railway, looking for tools no longer used for steam locos. We scoured the shed and the result of such labour went to Totnes in a 13 ton mineral wagon! I believe they did quite well from the Loco Works as well.

Callouts

There were two things none of the maintenance lads would ever complain about. One was callouts to the station. Depending on the driver and the fault, there was always the chance of jumping on board, fixing the fault in five minutes and then putting your

feet up in the back cab for the run to London, Bristol or Cardiff, and then back on the cushions!

With these, you had to operate carefully to ensure everyone capable got a fair share of them. Often the report would be vague and you wouldn't know whether to send a fitter for a mechanical repair or an electrician if there was a possible electrical fault. Control would ring up with a message such as, "3.15 up Bristol losing time. Only one engine" or "12.30 Cardiff loss of power 'B' engine" or "Up Acton fast fitted freight. Driver demands fresh engine. He's unlucky, We've got none spare. Sort him out."

If available, you might have to send the fitter and the electrician - and possibly lose them both for a couple of hours. We did our damnedest to keep the driver in his loco so our standard response was always, "We've only got enough locos to cover our diagrams and no spares." But that didn't wash with all controllers or running foremen. Those who knew the setup best (mostly ex running foremen themselves) could quickly do the local foreman's job for him and nominate locos.

This had an effect on our maintenance programme and the morning promise of locos released that day, so I was soon being lambasted by Divisional Office and traction controllers. Firmer control was needed, so after a while I usually went to the platform with them, and if we couldn't cure the fault there and then I took a guess as to who would be most suited to fault find and fix. When they got back I demanded a minute by minute

account of every single thing they did to that loco. Eventually, it got so tiring to keep thinking up reasons that the truth began to emerge, which resulted in a corresponding reduction in their rides.

On one of these callouts I made what I considered to be one of my better observations. On the 7th June the 2.15 p.m. Up Bristol was losing time with the loco only running on one engine. Control asked us to have a look at it, but they didn't want D1006 changed. So we had 2 minutes maximum to diagnose the fault. I took a fitter and an electrician with me and we waited at the end of the station platform for the train to arrive. As soon as the train stopped, the fitter and electrician climbed on board, and I talked to the driver. The engine simply wouldn't start, and he'd been trying all the way up. So I walked down the platform and looked in through the dirty perspex bodyside windows at the recalcitrant engine. Gazing at the governor end, suddenly I spotted the cause of the trouble, and began banging like a demented fool on the bodyside. Already I could hear the whistles being blown preparatory to departure. The electrician's face appeared in the window. I pointed out the engine starting solenoid hanging down from its mounting, and mimed that it wanted re-attaching. By the time the message had been understood, the train was already on the move and I was running down the ramp at the end of the platform! I learnt afterwards they got the engine going long before Shrivenham and made up a bit of time to Paddington.

NO RISK OFFER • NO RISK OFFER • NO RISK OFFER

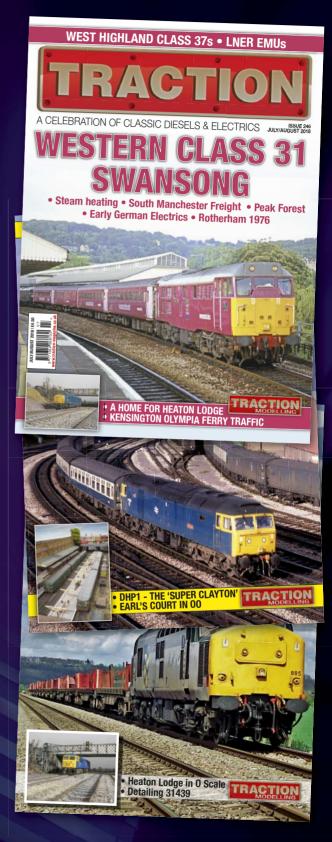
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Swindon Shed in the sixties:

D7055 is seen outside Swindon shed on 3rd April 1965. The author's notes show that during his time at Swindon the loco received both a 250 and 500 hour exam as well as three failures. The first was for a split compressor casing, the second compressor contacts having to be welded in whilst, on the third occasion, there was a turbo blower problem followed by a 3000 hour exam. JOHN IRELAND

David McPherson continues his account of the time he spent at Swindon shed when he was the interim mechanical foreman in 1965.

Memorable Loco Events

One little perk of the job was the intimate contact one had with locomotives and the fact that several hundred thousand pounds worth of equipment was temporarily entrusted to you. Many's the time I climbed on board a dead loco, ran through the startup procedure, got the engine(s) operating and did a quick cab check: brake pressure and the time taken to release the brakes; the A.W.S. braking times; the engine revs at idle and at full controller. Then I would follow these by a walk through the engine compartment to check the sound and appearance of the equipment therein. Occasionally, I'd fire up the train heating boiler. Sometimes, all this took place at the end of a routine examination when the fitter was away dealing with a failure. Provided the results were satisfactory, the loco could be released to traffic. My notes show that D1060, D1648, D1664, D1712, D4121and D7053 all suffered at my hands!

We saw quite a lot of Brush 4s. The 7th May was quite a novel day for me as I named

my first locomotive. D1664 was selected to be named 'George Jackson Churchward' and the bodyside plates were duly delivered to the shed. I helped mark out the location for the plates, then drilled the holes and fitted the nameplates to the locomotive myself. During the run-up afterwards, I noticed the driver's windscreen wiper motor had packed up at one end. Well, there was a performance to get and fit a replacement when time was short on a drizzly day. I managed it, though I'd never recommend balancing on the buffer beam of a Brush 4, one hand on the grab rail as an anchor, and the other wielding a wrench, frantically trying to remove the nut securing the wiper blade assembly from the motor spindle.

On busy days, the troops didn't mind me getting my hands dirty, and that was a busy day since I noted D7051 also on shed (3000 hour exam and brake gear check), D807 (damaged brake gear and pre-heater problems), D7012 (125 hour exam), and D7055 (500 hour exam).

An advantage of being a maintenance man

was knowing the short cuts for speeding up preparation time, and also avoiding trouble. The Achilles Heel (well, one of them) of the hydraulic locos was the need to preheat the engine cooling water system before the engine would start, the general idea being that all parts of these high performance engines had to be expanded to normal working dimensions before starting by preheating the circulating engine cooling water. Whether the spate of cylinder head cracks that plagued the Maybach and MAN engines occurred as a result of incorrect starting procedures it is hard to say, but generally the problems were caused by forgetfulness. This was to some extent understandable when considering the variety of engines that worked through Swindon, and the fact that some were cold start and others were hot

I remember one day when Landore's D1066 had failed on a down Swansea express. We'd patch-repaired the fault and the next morning the running foreman asked me to start it up as he was going to get the



On 23rd May D7006 is seen together with an English Electric 350 hp shunter outside the shed. The filthy state of this former steam shed is apparent in this photo. RAIL ONLINE

loco away to Wales on a Severn Tunnel Junction freight to work it back home. As so often occurs, we were in the middle of a spate of failures (on the downward cycle) and the loco became my 'baby' since the crews were fully employed elsewhere. When I climbed up on the loco I looked through the engine repair book. "Lost A engine - high coolant temp" was the entry. So it was into the engine room for a good visual inspection but all looked well. There was no trace of water on the floor plates, the levels were alright, the hoses were tight and the radiator banks were dry. However, I was surprised to see the pre-heaters, for warming the coolant and getting the engine temperature up prior to starting, hadn't been switched on. Consequently, the engines were stone cold, and should be impossible to start. However, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and by removing one of the panels in the cab, I bridged out the coolant low temperature relay, and pressed the start button. There was a "Weee-Clunk" response, and the loco rocked - an hydraulic lock.

I went back into the engine room and cracked open each engine bleed valve and coolant spewed out of three of them. I shut all the others, went back into the cab and

with some trepidation pressed the start button again and the engine fired. Then it was back into the engine room immediately to close the three bleed valves (a noisy operation). Finally I removed the bridge across the coolant low temperature relay in the cab, secured the panel cover and wrote in the engine repair book, "Suspect porous cylinder heads A1, 4 and 8." I then handed the loco over to the running foreman with an angelic smile on the face, knowing I'd broken plenty of rules in the book, but it kept the railway running.

Some of the faults that occurred were not that simple. D1060 caused a string of call-outs to Swindon station whilst working between South Wales and Paddington and back. Drivers complained of losing time because a transmission kept tripping, which shut down the engine. A week after the first report of trouble, '60 was on shed to greet us and boy, did the electrician groan when he clapped eyes on her. He was even more dejected as he climbed down after inspecting the engine repair book. "Every rotten shed between Raneleigh Road and Landore has had a go at this one, and each one says, 'No Fault Found'." Where to start?

Well, we checked the transmission oil

levels which looked good. We checked the operation of safety switches attached but no faults there. We checked the condition and tightness of hoses as these were known trouble spots on the 'Westerns'. We even checked A engine in case of a spurious fault, but drew a blank. Next we did the on-shed static run-up and were still quite baffled. Unfortunately, this enthusiastic mechanical foreman then had a brainwave and rang up Bristol Control.

"We've 1060 failed on shed, after a week of transmission trips on the main line. Can't find anything wrong on shed, so the fault must develop on the road. Can Reg (the divisional mechanical inspector) ride her?"

"No. He's on leave."

"Anyone else?"

"Nope - only you."

So, in a way, I got press-ganged into riding the beast, having first extracted a promise for a clear road.

That evening, the up fitted freight colloquially called the 'Barry Bananas' had a loco change at Swindon. At 19:30 the train set off eastwards into the gathering dusk, carrying a by now not quite so enthusiastic foreman as passenger. The Swindon driver was asked for a fast run. "You'll be so lucky,



with 20 on and 45 m.p.h. limit."

"Well, rub the brakes a bit," I said, "because we've got to get the transmission oil temperature up." By Stratton St. Margaret 1060 was up to 50 m.p.h. as the loco was walking away with this load.

"Can you shut down B engine and let A do the work, then slow down and try again?" I asked.

"Don't forget to tell the guard to book lost time against the engine and not the driver," came the retort, as B engine stop button was pressed.

The South Marsden signalman was leaning out of his window as we roared by at 15 m.p.h. on one engine. Our driver slid open the side window and gave him the royal wave as we passed.

Back in the engine room, I kept an anxious eye on the fault lights and gauges but they stayed infuriatingly normal. Knighton Crossing flew by with the loco still on full revs and we were really motoring along. At Uffington, the revs suddenly dropped away to idling. There was nothing amiss in the engine room, so off I went to the cab. Ahead twinkled a green over a yellow signal light.

"Running up the back of something," said the driver. Through Challow, and still the distant signal arms wouldn't drop. We came to a stand for 5 minutes at Steventon inner home signal. Then we were away again on yellows all the way to Tilehurst, and were switched to the Up Relief line at Reading West, after another wait to let a down freight behind a 'Warship' cross us.

We went through Reading on full revs but they were not to last for long. Sonning Cutting saw us with more yellows, which was how we continued right through to Acton. In Old Oak Common yard, I made a very irate call to Paddington's diesel controller. Yes, he knew about 1060. And no, it wasn't going west on the 00:40 papers as he wanted it for a South Wales freight. Yes, he appreciated that the fault had not been found. No, the loco was not going into Paddington. Goodnight.

I thumbed a lift into Paddington and rode with a driver I knew on the paper train back to Swindon, crawling into bed at 3 a.m. for a brief fitful sleep. The irony was that at 7.30 a.m. as I walked into the running foreman's office, I was greeted with loud laughter. The joke was revealed by pointing fingers through the window. There stood 1060, failed again after the A engine transmission tripped. My notes simply record 'D1060 F.H.D. (For Home Depot)'. The grapevine had it that after several days' investigation, Landore found a

broken wire in a cable duct.

Breakdowns

The other part of shed life which nobody complained about were call-outs. These were trips out in the breakdown vans (BDV), usually dragging our 36 ton crane. We averaged about a call a fortnight, and the daylight ones usually occurred in the middle of a busy spell of work on shed. Maximum disruption was assured, because almost all the members of the breakdown gang were maintenance men. Bang went all your promises for loco release times!

Most of the jobs we were called to while I was there consisted of re-railing wagons off the road, derailed through points splitting, heavy shunting, buffers locking, track giving way, and so on. One night we had to stand by while the Royal Train travelled on the Down road to Cardiff behind D1029.

Shedmaster Jack Chaplin sometimes accompanied us, and since we were all equal on the BDVs, usually took off his shedmaster's hat and regaled us with railway lore collected over many years mostly on the LNER. Oh for a tape recorder! He had that wonderful gift of being a born storyteller of railway happenings, and usually had us in stitches. His very dry and lively sense of



humour was the perfect antidote when the job was not going right or the weather was abominable.

The first BDV I recorded was a call to Wotton Bassett, to rerail a Continental wagon No. 1057099 that took just half an hour.

Another was on 11th May, when DMU power car No. W50715 drove through the spring points on the shed incoming line in the afternoon, derailed one bogie and blocked the shed. It was well slewed and off the track, and would be a massive jack, pack and traverse job, all manual tasks in those days. So the decision was taken to use the 36 ton crane, which meant locating and fitting the special spreader beam to hook under the mainframe of the rail car. It took us four hours to get it back on track and stow the vans away afterwards.

A memorable and unusual call-out was on a Monday morning, when spare motive power was always tight. As I walked into the shed, I was greeted by, "B.D.V.s to Hullavington, D.E Sidings." So the breakdown gang members were buttonholed as they came to work, and by 8 a.m. we were being hauled out of the B.D.Vs. stabling road by a 'Hymek'. Calamity then struck as the points sprang under the tool van, which gracefully dropped one bogie onto the ballast. "Getting a bit of practice in

first, are you?" was the dry comment of the shedmaster, as he watched us go through the 'jack & pack' routine. The 'Hymek' was promptly collared for another job.

With the tool van back on the track, the only available locomotive was a steamer: 'Hall' class No. 6917, already turned for return to Gloucester. The 'Hall' dragged us into Swindon Station, ran around us and set off down the Main. I was on the footplate, completely unaware that this was to be the last time I'd ride a steam locomotive on B.R. in ordinary service. We cantered along to Hullavington, and crossed over the Up Main and ran gently into the D.E.'s sidings, to stop by a porter. "I've set the road for you. Just keep going." A tug on the regulator and we quietly glided off into a veritable wilderness of grass and weeds. Soon, the rails were obliterated.

"Go and stand on the buffer beam," requested the driver of his mate. "I can't see the wood for the trees in here ... hah, hah!" Then, as the fireman disappeared along the running plate, he added, "I wonder if he'll meet Dr. Livingstone." We moved off again.

After another 100 yards, the fireman motioned to the driver to ease off. Abruptly, the rear of a wagon came into view. We stopped, and could see no landmarks at all, just matted vegetation that rose to the height of the running plate and small trees thickly sprinkled about. "It feels much better using a steamer as a battering ram," remarked the driver, pouring himself a cuppa from the billy. "You're that much more exposed on a diesel."

I jumped down into the '6 foot', snapping off a sapling during the descent, and peered under the ashpan to judge the risk of fire from the compressed vegetation thereunder. Then, I trampled a way past the loco to the visible wagon. A bit of grass-pulling from around the wheels revealed that this one was still on the track. Another wagon loomed into view. Checked this one out - on the rails, too. Yet a third, and a fourth, all OK. There the track finished, in an overgrown earth bank. The shedmaster joined me.

"Where's the derailment?" I asked.

"Keep going, young man" replied the voice of experience. "They've shunted this siding and pushed one off the end."

And so it proved. We ploughed a trail through the undergrowth and came across a four-wheeler, around 15 feet from the track. "Some push," I said. Studying the size of intermediate saplings which would need removing before hauling the wagon back to the rails, the shedmaster observed "Do you know, this wagon could have rested here for several decades?"

The job was pretty straightforward. We unloaded plenty of timber from the match truck and got the 'Hall' to drag the four wagons onto another road. The driver, on his return, wryly advised us that they would need more than a 'Hall' to find them next time! Meanwhile we laid out the timber to form a rough permanent way, and jacked up the wagon to lay timber under its wheels. After roughly clearing the ground between the loco and the wagon, a long, strong wire was

then coupled between the loco's drawhook and that on the derailed wagon. Gently, the loco reversed, pulling up the slack, and applied more steam when the wire was taut. With a jerk, the wagon slowly began rolling back along our timbers and up onto the rails first time. Then the back-breaking job of recovering our packing timbers began, the shedmaster's absence now was a trifle conspicuous!

Depending on the time and distance to travel to site, the inspector in charge (usually the chargehand) would authorise the opening of rations. That meant the stove would be lit up and the 'cook' (a fitter's mate) would put on the large cast iron teapot billy for a steaming hot mug of condensed milk sweetened tea - I can taste it now! The billy hadn't been cleaned since Churchward's time, to judge by the black tar lining it inside. Then later on would come the soup, a real country vegetable mix, and stew. There were biscuits and cheese, and as much as you wanted at the site and on the return to the shed.

I stayed in the messing van for the return trip to Swindon, enjoying some of that delicious tea and soup and we were soon all convulsed with laughter as our born raconteur shedmaster regaled us with some events he'd witnessed in his steam days. Meanwhile the chance to ride a steam locomotive was slipping inexorably away, to terminate for ever at 2 p.m. as we rolled to a stand on shed.

Another memorable breakdown occurred two weeks later, on a Saturday morning. At 9 a.m. we were told, "B.D.V.s to Ashbury Crossing – Up Main blocked by loco failure." By 10 a.m. we were inching our way on the parallel Up Relief line past a line of coaches and we were leaning out of the van window, being harangued! This was no ordinary passenger train but one of the Swindon Works Annual Holiday or 'Trip' trains, bound for the Kent Coast. Many were the ribald comments flying back and forth, as fitters and chargehands, with whom I'd worked as an apprentice, saw who their saviours were!

D7065 was immobile all right. The driver reported one hell of a racket and thumping from the bogie under him, and the cause was there to see. The cardan shaft between the inner and outer final drive gearboxes had sheared. Both ends had flailed around until the train stopped. There'd been a fair bit of damage to the brake rigging, too. This was no 'jack and pack' job, so we removed just enough to get the loco mobile and back to Swindon.

The damaged brake rigging was quickly removed and piled up on the engine room floor through '65's' side doors. Both parts of the cardan shaft were similarly dealt with. During this time, our loco, diminutive D2186, had moved forward onto the up Main and reversed back onto D7065. Once we'd finished our work, it hauled the uncoupled 'Hymek' up to the crossing and reversed back down to drop the loco onto the BDVs. Meanwhile, another 'Hymek' had arrived light engine to take over from '65, and so order was sorted from chaos. The delayed



D1664 'George Jackson Churchward' had its nameplates fitted at Swindon shed on the 7th May 1965 by the author. It is seen here four years later on the 11th June 1969 at Kensington Olympia at the head of a Willesden to Cardiff Freightliner. By this time the locomotive has received full yellow ends but still retains its D prefix to the number. RAIL ONLINE

holidaymakers were on their way east and, after D2186 had run round the BDVs, we set off west, still chuckling over their lousy start to the holiday!

Memorable Loco Repairs

D1648 was one of our driver training locos, being an early dual air-braked Brush 4 and still quite new. It was a great loco except for one thing - we couldn't get the train air-brake system to work. The loco air-brake system was OK, as was the train vacuum system, but no matter what we did, feeling our way cautiously, we ended up having to tell the duty running foreman that once again the loco was available but only for vacuum braked workings.

We didn't stop the loco just for that fault, usually we looked at it whenever it was on shed between turns, but it was a constant niggle. We eventually got hold of brake system drawings and focused on the proportional valve, but we couldn't prove that that valve was the culprit. Days spread into weeks and the loco seemed to mock us each time we walked past it.

One glorious Saturday morning we were once again tracing out the air pipes inside the loco body. The fitter and I were following a

particular small bore pipe and found a small fitting. "What's this?" asked the fitter.

"Strainer," I replied, looking at the schematic drawing.

- "What's it do?"
- "Filters the air."
- "From what?"

"Any muck and sediment in the pipelines." $\,$

"Think we ought to look at it?"

"Naw, this is a new loco, we haven't interfered with the brake system at all. It's got to be clean."

"Well, we're clutching at straws, let's have a dekko" and out came a shifting spanner and he unscrewed the cap off the strainer housing. The fine mesh filter was clogged with a tightly packed mixture of paint and rust flakes. With a growing feeling of euphoria, we carried the tiny strainer off the loco and showed the mixture to other fitters and the running foreman, cleaned it up with compressed air, replaced the strainer, started the loco's engine and, with bated breath, tested the air-brake system. Both train pipe gauges registered pressure, and when we operated the air-brake lever, the brake pipe gauge dropped to zero. Cheers of jubilation rang inside the shed that day. D1648 lost its smirk, and became just another Brush 4.



Another interesting occasion was on a drizzly Monday when our golfing fanatic fitter, walking across the shed entrance, suddenly leapt to one side, shouting "FORE" at the top of his voice! D4124 skidded with all wheels locked along No. 7 shed road, through the shed entrance and into a pile of empty oil drums. That put the loco out of service for a couple of days whilst the footsteps were straightened. If anyone had been in the way.....

We were associated with a little history making event on the weekend of 14th-15th August 1965, when we carried out the vacuum governor change on the 12 'Hymeks' at Swindon, bringing the vacuum brake operation down from the Great Western standard of 25 inches to the British Railways standard of 21 inches.

D0280 'Falcon' came on shed on 3rd May for headquarters inspection. Effectively the loco was a 'Western' with electric transmission instead of hydraulic and in a Brush 4 body. I'd ridden on 'Falcon' before and I liked the combination as, without a doubt, it was stronger than a 'Western', and it cleared Box Summit a full 5 mph faster than any 'Western' could on up Bristol expresses.

The Ending

The mechanical foreman had long since

retired, but during my nineteenth week in his job, officialdom caught up with me and I was told I would be replaced the following week. By now I had my own copy of the BR Rule Book, a Bardic Lamp AND my first (and only) B.R. black mackintosh, to make me feel part of the establishment.

My appointed replacement arrived, straight off the 'Blue Pullmans', on which he'd been an inspector. Like the shed master, he had a formidable repertoire of stories, both tall and short. The handover was swift and sure. Ivor was, after all, still a running shed man.

Handover complete, I was instructed to report to Cardiff Division, and from there was immediately reallocated to Landore and the beginning of a new chapter.

Postscript

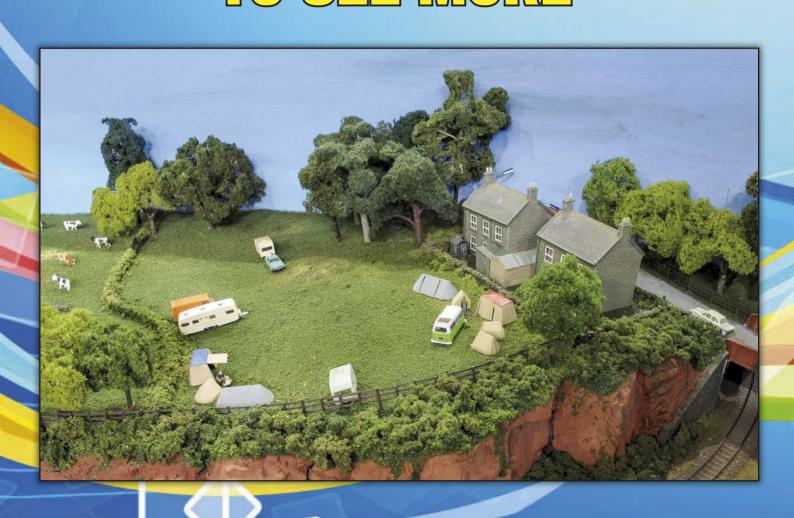
This unusual view, taken on 23rd May 1965, shows the interior of the shed with one of the Swindon built D95xx series

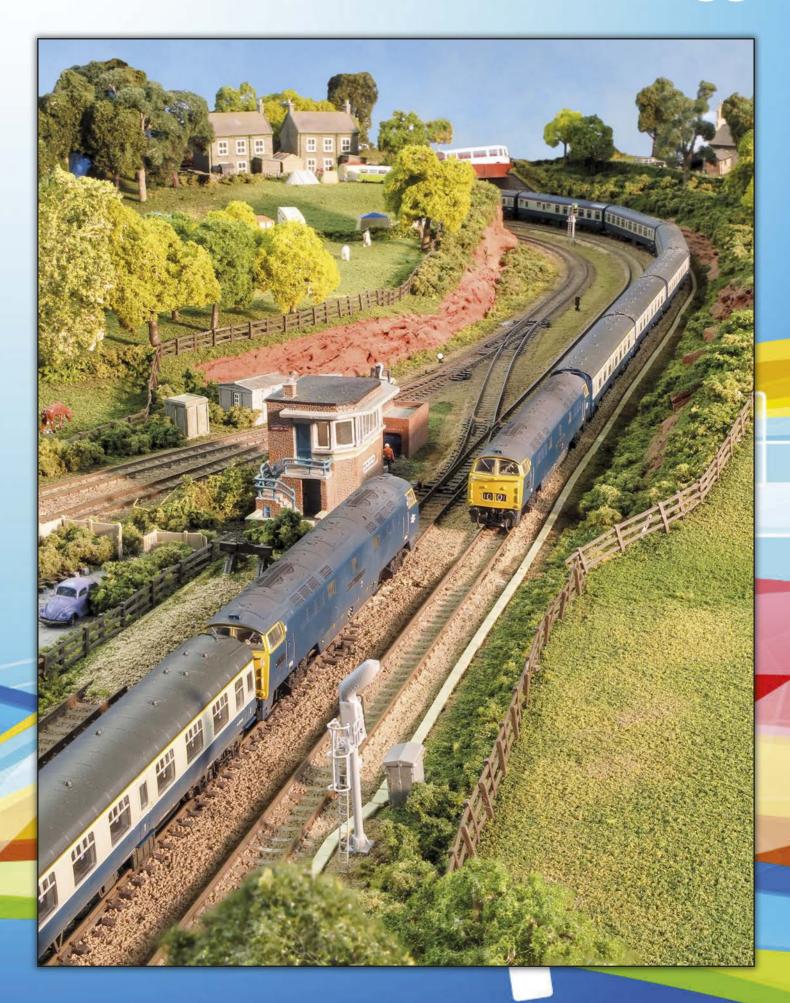
650 hp hydraulic locos on the right, whilst outside is a line up of Brush Type 4s, 'Hymeks' and 'Westerns'.

I was returning to Swansea from London on the 'Blue Pullman' one Friday evening some months later. We pulled up on the through road in Swindon station with a lighting fault on one of the Pullman cars. Who should attend but one of my former colleagues, an electrician from Swindon shed. We had a brief chat while he traced and rectified the fault and we parted ways. That was a call-out I hadn't experienced whilst at Swindon shed.

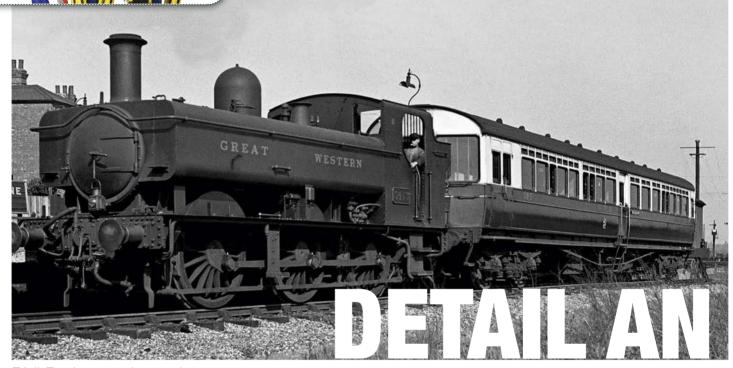


DIGITAL EDITION EXCENSIVE CUCKAND SWIPE IMAGES









Phil Parker updates the venerable Airfix autocoach so that it can sit more easily with modern RTR stock.

an there be a more model railway friendly prototype passenger train than an autocoach? A single vehicle pulled by a short locomotive intended to potter around lightly used branch lines. Best of all, even in OO it will fit in a platform 40cm long.

The Great Western railway found themselves operating many lines that didn't warrant a full length train for much of the day and in 1930, ordered ten coaches to a design diagram labelled A28. 62" 8' long, they would work with a locomotive that was "auto fitted" that is, it could be controlled through a set of rods from one end of the coach. The best known of these was the 0-4-2 14xx class but all the 54xx and some of the 64xx Pannier were also fitted to perform these operations.

Airfix GMR launched in the late 1970s and provided a real wake-up call to the industry. The levels of detail were higher than anything modellers had been used to. They also focused on the GWR – always

AUTOCOACH

Words & Photography: Phil Parker

one of the most popular railway companies. Realising that most modellers are strapped for space and so a short passenger train would be perfect, 1978 saw the arrival of their autocoach and 14xx tank, both of which can still be found in Hornby's range.

More recently, Bachmann has produced a rival in the Hawkesworth version, however sat next to each other, the older model cries out for a bit of a facelift. As luck would have it, Dart Casting produce a comprehensive kit to do the job.

Tools

Craft Knife Small pliers Razor saw Flush wire cutters Scissors Pin vice 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5mm drill bits Flat Swiss file Round Swiss file Superglue

What we used

Airfix GMR GWR Auto-trailer

(Now produced by Hornby as R4790- GWR or R4791-BR liveries)

www.airfix.com

Dart Castings

DK1 GWR Autocoach Detailing Kit PP1 Pewter Passengers www.dartcastings.co.uk





The Airfix model, now available from Hornby, looks pretty good and has always been a very popular, available in at least 20 GWR and BR liveries. This example was purchased second-hand and a quick look at eBay shows nearly 50 on offer, so there isn't any problem getting hold of one.



Compared to the Bachmann Hawksworth version released a couple of years ago. From the top, these things might look simple, but the equipment required to operate a loco from one end of a coach in the days before electronics is impressive and complicated. We expect our RTR models to include it nowadays too.



The vacuum cylinders can come off, as they are basic lumps. Sawing from the top allows me to get some wire snips in to chop the plastic away. Finally tidying up is carried out with a sharp knife. The leftover holes are covered with a piece of thin plastic, although you can't see when the model is on its wheels, so this isn't essential.



Working with the bogies in place is essential if they are to be able to swing without knocking into newly fitted details. The dynamo is set up to clear the end of the bogie and its drive belt, made from a strip of metal, is cut away to keep clear of moving parts. In reality, this is a belt that runs around the axle, but again, from the side this will look OK.



Most detailing projects commence with dismantling the model. Run a fingernail under the bottom edge of the roof to pop this off, then undo four small cross-head screws in the floor to separate body and chassis. The bogies are removed by squeezing the lugs together. I'll leave the glazing in place, as clear plastic can be very brittle when it's several decades old. If I planned a repaint, obviously it would need to be unclipped.



There should be three battery boxes under the coach so I fold up one of the brass ones, running superglue into all of the corners and behind the legs. You can solder, but I didn't heat up the iron as the glue was handy. Proper handles are supplied, but I used plastic strip to match the pair of moulded boxes on the model already.



At the front (driving) end, things get really tight. The whitemetal castings are trimmed to allow them to be set forward a few millimetres and the etched plate hangers left off entirely. It's not ideal, but does add useful clutter under the driving cab. The corner steps are fitted at this end only, as they would be clobbered by the tension lock coupling fitted at the back end.



One of the first jobs to be tacked is the removal of the moulded battery boxes. This is difficult to do, the boxes being bulky, the truss fragile and all the plastic being very old. I wrecked two chassis before deciding to leave it alone. If you must do this, I suggest removing all the trussing and replacing it with brass angle using the plastic originals as a guide.



I'm using the original V-hangers for the same reason the battery boxes have been retained. Inner ones are from the etched parts in the kit and all are drilled to accept 0.5mm brass wire. Some whitemetal parts are supplied for this but wire is easier to keep straight and less fragile. I have had to make cranks from plastic strip drilled, cut to a pointed shape and fixed with superglue. The new cast vacuum tanks look a lot better than the originals even from the side.

TOP TIP



Old model railway stock gets damaged. Repairing it isn't easy as the plastic is usually quite hard and doesn't take normal modelling glues. Underframe trusses are particularly vulnerable to breakage if the owner has picked up their coach by gripping it tightly around the middle.

Even if the break is really tidy, and they generally are, there's not enough area in the join for superglue to hold. The trick is to add a splint of plastic strip behind the broken area and fix this in place with lashings of solvent designed for ABS plastics. This bonds the two materials well, but it's worth leaving the joint overnight to fully harden before sanding away any of the splint that is visible

Sadly, for a join this small, the ABS solvent on its own won't hold and you really have to brace it for strength.

PRACTICAL



To make the "face" of the model look good, a Romford screw coupling is fitted into a hole drilled in the plate on the buffer beam. Pipes fit under the beam, tucking behind it for a reasonably strong joint.



The model will never look worse than it does now, with battered paintwork and scars all over the body. If you've not done anything like this before, it's the point at which you believe you have ruined the model. Look on the bright side, anything you do now can only make it look better.



Etched grab rails are provided, requiring a pair of holes to be drilled to accept the legs. Marking the holes is easier if you set a pair of compasses fitted with two spikes to the correct distance, then press into the plastic body to provide guides for the drill bit.



The Airfix plastic wheels on the left were very good in their day, especially when compared to some of the steamrollers other makers fitted, but not as nice as the metal Romfords on the right. Changing over involves flexing the bogie sides to remove the old wheels and drop in the new.



Time to ruin the body. The moulded on handrails are carefully carved away using a small chisel and sharp knives. While I'm at it, the lamp irons can come off too.

DIRT



I'm desperate to avoid repainting the body, but some serious touching up of the paintwork will be required. Railmatch 603 GWR Stock Cream is perfect for upperworks but the 602 Stock Brown is too rich for Airfix's interpretation of the colour, which is curiously flat. A much better match is 402 Frame Dirt. It's still not perfect, but for a working coach, is not far away.





The lamp irons need to be folded up and added front and back. In a sure sign the kits was designed by a modeller, spares are provided on the etch, so you can afford to drop one on the floor and lose it. Superglue is ideal for fixing — use a brand with slight gap-filling properties to hide the holes.





Door handles are replaced by bending bits of the 0.45mm brass wire supplied in the kit and fitting into holes drilled in the coach side. The trick is to cut them to length after fitting. Sadly, this doesn't work for the curved handrail, which is anchored at both ends and has to be bent to the right shape before gluing in.



Destination boards are fitted part way along the coach side. They scale out at 11mm by 2mm and of course the originals had fallen off. I made a new set on the computer and decided this coach would operate into my local station.



Airfix sold the model with a self-coloured plastic chassis, but that won't do any more. I spray everything with Revell No.9, Anthracite black. This isn't a pure black, but a very dark grey that looks more convincing. Railmatch makes a similar colour called "Weathered Black", which is one of my favourite paints. Once dry, the chassis and bogies will be dry-brushed with dark grey, rust and track colour to provide the appearance of use on the railway.



None of the little people needed their lower limbs amputating to sit in the seats. Painting passengers is a great way to practice figure-work, as the finer details aren't so visible. I just picked out the main clothes with nicely muted colours and then gave them a wash of Games Workshop brown weathering ink to show the creases and shadows.



With everything clipped back together, the additions to the previously fairly plain end can be seen. There's much more you could do to the base model, but my aim has been produce a piece of stock suitable for running on a layout, not a showcase queen.



White roofs don't stay that colour very long on a steam railway, so although the coach was to be clean, I sprayed a much thinned coat of Anthracite black over the top, letting it run into the ribs and vents. You can achieve the same effect with black weathering powders. In both cases, work with the roof off the model to avoid dirtying the sides.



Empty coaches look wrong but Dart Castings have a special set of passengers perfect for populating this one. Cast in pewter, they are lighter than the same models in whitemetal. You might recognise some of the Monty's Models range as well as other from the company in here. The detail casting isn't as good as these but then they will be hidden away, only visible through the windows so you can save a few quid by using them.

Useful books

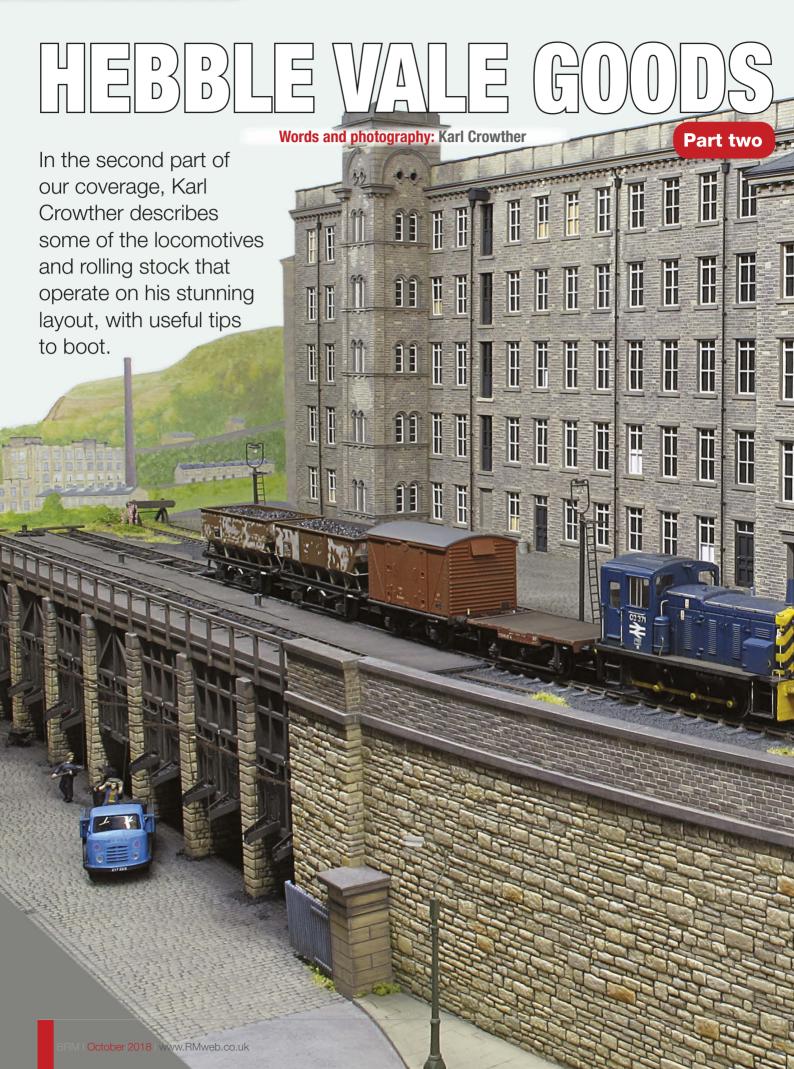
Great Western Auto Trailers – Parts 1 and 2 by John Lewis Publisher: Wild Swan

These are the books you need on your shelf if you really want to know the prototype. Part one covers the pregrouping vehicles with the second volume looking at post grouping and also those carriages absorbed by the GWR. One for the serious carriage enthusiast, but you won't do any better.

Detailing and Improving Ready to Run Coaches by Tony Wright Irwell Press

Tony takes on the Dart Castings kit, excellent if you want to try for the "full fat" version of the model. If you want to get out and about, the Didcot Railway Centre, Llangollen Railway, South Devon Railway and Severn Valley Railway all have prototype auto-trailers although you'll need to check how accessible they are and when there is a chance to travel on one.







LAYOUT FOCUS

n the original December 2011 BRM feature I touched on the intended motive power and, as it turned out, I've managed to stick pretty much to the plan in this respect. The Class 25 comprises a Bachmann mechanism converted to a sprung assembly using one of Ian Penberth's excellent 'Penbits' kits, with a body made up from the original Bachmann centre section plus the cabs taken from an old Hornby donor model (the Bachmann cabs are the wrong shape). The Class 37 is again Bachmann and while given an upgrade with various Shawplan 'Extreme Etchings' body detailing components, still awaits the 'Penbits' treatment. The Class 31 on the other hand is pretty much a straight Hornby model, renumbered, and runs on Ultrascale replacement wheelsets. The 03 shunter project (a detailed Mainline body on a High Level chassis) has turned out nicely and is a very steady runner, as one would expect from the High Level stable. All locomotives are fitted with sound decoders and I have a mix of both ESU and Zimo types.

The main work involved re-modelling the front ends including deepening the cab side windows, dropping the bonnet top by around 1.0mm and then applying the full range of Shawplan Extreme Etchings upgrade parts (cab front window frames, air horn grilles, roof fan/grille, Clayton boiler ports etc.). Then, a new centre headcode box was scratch-built from styrene sheet. After sorting out the marker lights (based on a kit from Express Models), I decided to model it as 40195, an incumbent of Healey Mills at the time and the last class member I recorded in normal service on BR. The finishing touch was an ESU V4 sound decoder pre-loaded with a DC Kits 'Legomanbiffo' sound project and a 20x40mm speaker mounted into the chassis block, for which I had to mill out a suitable aperture.

That brings us onto the rolling stock and here I've managed to stick fairly closely to the plan (though I do now have rather more than is needed). There is the usual mix of adapted proprietary and kit-built offerings (mainly Parkside and a few Chivers), plus



BR Blue 40195 idles in the sidings awaiting the shunter to change the points.



Re-worked and detailed Hornby BR ferry van. Transfers for the distinctive branding came from Railtec.

cutting it in half lengthways and inserting styrene strip to widen it! The icing on the cake was in persuading Railtec to produce some suitable transfers for these vehicles.

Having completed this BR version I turn back again to my **BRM** article of 2011. In that I showed a photo I took at Halifax Station around 1980, with a short rake of wagons standing on a section of the partly demolished GNR/LYR Queensbury line platform. One of these vehicles was an intriguing looking ferry van whose origins



The completed Belgian Ferry Van. Painting was by hand using Humbrol enamels. A coat of Johnson's Klear was applied to areas where the transfers were to go, with a further coat to seal them in after allowing to dry thoroughly. A couple of coats of Testors Dullcote spray varnish were then applied, after which final weathering could take place.



Work on re-modelling a Lima Class 40 bodyshell. Having deepened the cab-side windows I then cut off the bonnet top, repositioning it 1mm shallower and also then rounding off the 'shoulder' where it meets the sides. This work destroys the horn grilles so I removed everything else from the front end, with the exception of the tail light surrounds. A new centre headcode box was fabricated from layers of styrene sheet and new handrails from 0.3mm nickel-silver wire. The original lamp irons were reinstated and Extreme Etchings horn grilles were fitted. You'll see I also cut away and replaced the cab door handrails with the same 0.3mm wire. Other refinements to the body included fitting EE roof fan/ grille and cab roof ventilator cowls, and of course the new cab front windscreen frames.

In that original article I said one of the main things that reawakened my interest in the Blue Diesel period was a rediscovered passion for Class 40s, and at long last one of these has been added to the fleet. I'd purchased one of the original Bachmann 4-axle drive versions when they first appeared. Given the well-documented constraints with the body proportions of this initial version (the more recent ones are very good), I looked into replacing the superstructure with a spare Lima bodyshell.

the odd scratch-build. The greatest variety is amongst the parcels fleet and in particular, ferry van traffic was something I was keen to represent. The first one tackled was a BR standard ferry wagon, based on the Hornby model. I say 'based on' because I removed just about all details below the solebars and did a complete rebuild in the underframe department, including the incorporation of Bill Bedford sprung axleguards. It was also pointed out to me that the Hornby vehicle is slightly too narrow so the work included

I couldn't identify at the time. That was until my friend Adam Chapman said it was a Belgian vehicle. Having sourced a suitable drawing and compared it with the Hornby model the two were significantly different, though the same overall length and wheelbase. However, they did have one consistent feature in the form of the prominent body side vents, which were pretty much identical in both types. I therefore took the plunge and carved up a Hornby model to get just the required eight body panels containing the vents. Having removed the springs and axleguards from the underframe, the rest of the model was duly binned and the Belgian Ferry van effectively scratchbuilt from styrene sheet, with the incorporation of these few parts from the original donor model. As with the BR version, castings and various small details such as the ferry cleats & hooks came from variety of sources (Wizard Models, Lanarkshire Models & Supplies etc). The completed model makes an interesting contrast to the BR example (the transfers were cobbled together again from the Railtec sheet - not quite everything that should be is there, but the most important branding is present, at least).

On the longer wheelbase vans, the RTR ones included, I've tended again to spring them as I feel this gives a better ride on such vehicles (again mainly Bill Bedford and occasionally Masokits). The single bogie vehicle (an ex-LMS 50ft Full Brake) is an old Mainline model with the corridor connections removed and runs on Comet bogies, with some added detail in the underframe department.

So there you have it, Hebble Vale is now just about complete – a full 10 years in the making. Having got 1970s Blue Diesels out of my system I intend now to return to my Cumbrian-based 1960s steam/green diesel theme, so watch this space, as they say.

See Hebble Vale Goods at: Wigan – October 6 and 7 Stevenage – January 12 and 13, 2019 York – April 22, 2019

Covered walkways between adjacent mill buildings were a distinctive local feature and it was thought that these examples (from Dean Clough) would help disguise the exit from the sector plate. The little brick/timber staff cabin was based on an example that formerly stood at Halifax (Town) Station and gives a pleasing contrast to the stonework that otherwise dominates the scene.



Ex-LMS/Stanier 50' full brake. This uses an old Mainline model as the basis. The bogies have been replaced with Comet, while a certain amount of extra detail has been added to the underframe (including new buffers - also from Comet, plus scratchbuilt footsteps). On the body, the end corridor connections have been removed (as was done on some vehicles at this period), with new end framing and other detail being fabricated. New, separate wire handrails were fitted, along with door handles, while the windows have been flush-glazed with individually cut pieces of clear acrylic, with the glazing bars represented by pieces of pre-painted 0.3mm nickel-silver wire.



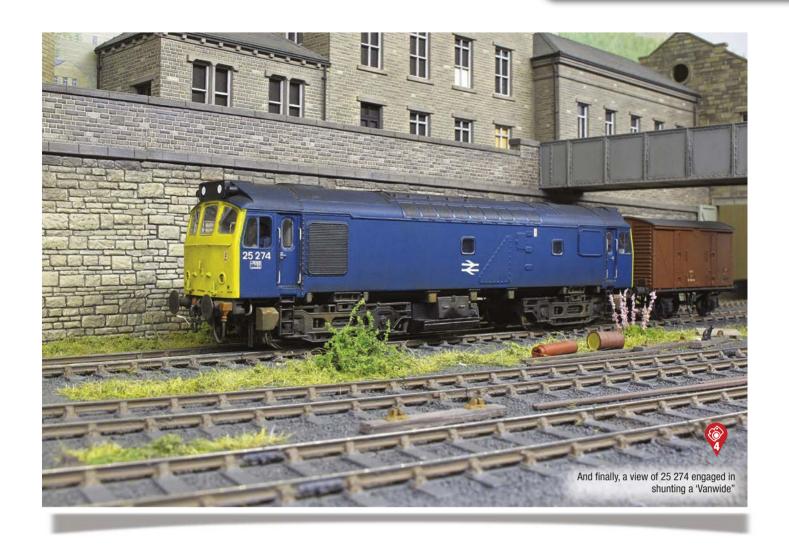


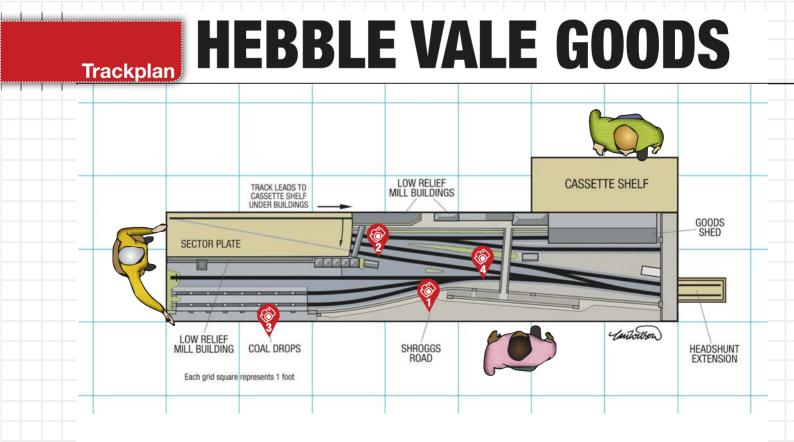
There were coal drops (as they are called locally) similar to those modelled, at both Halifax and Sowerby Bridge, and the model versions always seem to generate a lot of comment at shows. The supporting piers were made up from more Wills sheet, but with the large stones on the ends being separately-cut and shaped styrene 'blocks', while the hopper woodwork was laser-cut in 2mm MDF. The doors, chutes and the operating mechanisms were constructed from a set of nickel-silver photo-etched parts I had prepared from my own artwork. A final detail was the little numbers on the hoppers which are a Slater's product. A full account of how these were built appears in MRJ 255. The figures active in the coal yard are from the Pete Goss range, while I have to admit that at present the coal lorry isn't right for either the period, or the locality.....



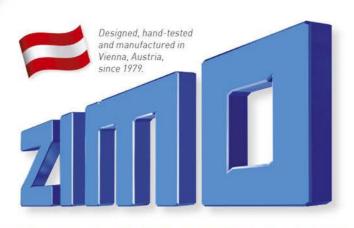
Tips for perfect stonework

- 1. Base your efforts on a real example. Get photos of stonework in the area you are modelling, or even better, visit the location and see for yourself. This will give you a feel for the texture of the stonework and serve as an aid to the final colouring. the final colouring.
- 2. Where there are to be corners, where possible, cut the structure from a single sheet so you can be sure the courses match up correctly. Hide any non-matching joins in parts of the model that won't normally be seen.
- 3. Where sheets join up, be prepared to get stuck in with knives and scribers to create a new pattern of courses that straddle the join. Once filler has been applied to create these 'new' stones, with luck evidence of the join should magically disappear.





Thinking of going digital?



Considering DCC sound?

BEWARE! NOT ALL DECODERS ARE THE SAME

Tempted by 'own-brand' chips and bulk deals offered by big discount internet-based retailers? What about cheap sound locomotives and decoders from the major ready-to-run manufacturers? These seem attractive but can end up being a false economy. Built-in obsolescence could leave you locked-out of exciting new features, software updates and the reloading of improved sound files.

There is an alternative. ZIMO - once the 'best kept secret' of a handful of experts - is now Britain's fastest-growing DCC brand. Invest in the best and you will enjoy peace of mind through a threeyear warranty, unrivalled customer support and an easy-to-use repair option if you make a mistake. In a time of rising prices, ZIMO's future-proof technology also offers great value for money.

There's more. With the ability to update 'via the rails', ZIMO is constantly innovating. We are known for maximising functions, simple to fit 'stay-alive' options and our ground-breaking 'smart stop' technology. ZIMO's legendary silky-smooth motor control obtains optimum performance from every type of mechanism - in all scales - including the latest trend for coreless designs.

> Paying over the odds for sound? It is time to think again!

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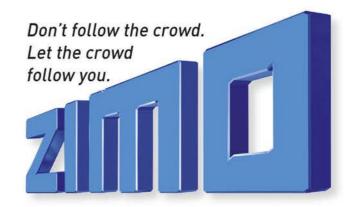
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BATCH PAINT FIGURES

The painting of layout figures is definitely an art, but a few simple techniques can produce some pleasing results. Kevin Phare picks up his paintbrush and shows you how...

posted a picture on RMweb that showed a suited gentlemen waiting on a station platform. I have been asked on more than one occasion if I could pass on any tips on how I painted him. I do seem to have ended up finding a method that is relatively quick, simple and that produces some reasonable results.

Painting purists might turn their noses up at my slightly lazy technique, but I argue that these figures form part of a much larger picture, which is the railway layout itself, so they should rarely be looked at in isolation.

For this article, I have used figures from Dart Castings and Modelu. All the paint is from the Vallejo range and the varnish referred to is the Winsor and Newton Artists' Acrylic Matt UV varnish.

Words & Photography: Kevin Phare



I use a plastic top from a spray can and some blue tack to hold the figures firmly. I also tend to paint in small numbers, normally four figures at a time, as this is is light enough to hold without getting too heavy.

These figures have been checked over for flash or mould lines, which was minimal, and then they were fixed to the can lid. I had also washed them in warm soapy water beforehand, to ensure any release agent has been removed and I left them to dry thoroughly before I started.



A coat of grey primer was applied to highlight the details and make it easier to see them before starting the painting. This was left to dry thoroughly.

At this point I should mention that I use fine paint brushes for all this work. I suspect for those of you who prefer spray guns (or cans), this will work just as well if thin coats are used 2

My layout is based in the mid-1930s so I researched the period to give me some idea of the colour of the clothes typically worn at that time. The best way is to use books, photographs and search engines. I was amazed at amount of information that is available, much is in colour as well.

Here it would also be useful to explain the best process I have found in painting figures, which is to start with the furthest, or deepest, part of the model first. This is because it is easier to over paint an edge than it is to cut in. For instance, I paint the face, then the shirt and finally the jacket in that order. The brush can be easy held over an edge where a better paint line can be formed.



Note the face and hands have been painted first and that I have not been overly careful in getting the flesh colour onto adjoining areas, as this can be over painted easily at the next stage.



Here you can see that I have painted the lady's dress before the coat, as it is the furthest area. The gent to her right has had his shirt and bow tie painted using the same principle.



This gent has now moved on a bit, and his suit has been painted with a brush, overpainting the suit/shirt edge to give a sharp demarcation between the two.



This shows some of the other figures painted using the same principle.

One thing I should mention is brush technique. Always use a small brush loaded with a little amount of paint at any one time, as this is far more controllable and won't leave a large blob of paint where it's not needed. Also, and this applies to any form of model painting, is to ensure that everything is supported and steady because if the model or brush shakes then so will the paint result. I often use a supporting stick, upon which I rest the wrist



This shows the four figures, all painted and ready for the final stage of detailing. The shoes will be painted after I have applied a couple of coats of varnish to protect each figure whilst being handled.



These figures have had a few applications of black wash applied, which runs into all the creases, folds and detail lines giving a shadow effect. This has taken a few applications, sometimes to localised areas only, but you will end up with these results. Finally, apply another coat of varnish to seal figures for handling.

The two seated men to the centre and right are H0 scale (1/87), so they appear much smaller when seated next to the Dart Castings figures. Be careful when mixing scales, as it does become noticeable. All it needs is a little thought and not to group different scale figures together.



The placing of figures is key to making a layout look realistic, so do try to pose them in credible positions. A dry run of their placing is always a good idea too, and perhaps leave them in place for a day or two to see if you are happy with their location. This picture shows my attempt at this. You will also note that I am not a fan of figures in mid-flight. I don't use models of people in motion, as I don't think it looks correct.



BRM meets...

THE MODEL CENTRE

Providing two decades of sales, weathering and customisation services to modellers worldwide, Chris Yates' business started from humble beginnings in a chicken shed. Howard Smith visited their North Yorkshire moors retreat to collect Chris' thoughts on the journey to date and what he believes the future holds...

I've heard a great deal of good about TMC, mostly from its satisfied customers, but on the odd occasion when I see Chris at an exhibition it's usually a flurry of excitement around the stand. Never having visted their premises and living in such an idillic place adjacent to the wonderful North Yorkshire Moors Railway, I met Chris, his son (and successor), Alex and the team to discover more...



The team behind model shop and model sales, customer service, model research, product development, weathering, customisation and more - from left to right: Richard Sawyer, Chris Yates, Andrew Heslington, Michael Simmonds and Alex Yates.

HOWARD: What was the motivation behind TMC? Was there something from your career in the model industry that made you realise things could be done differently? CHRIS: They say 'stick to what you know, play to your strengths and you won't go far wrong'. It's a good basis for a business. Simply put, my experience gleaned from visiting model and toy shops was put into practice - I used to get paid for this! My former career working in the model industry selling Hornby and Scalextric was a dream

and I often joke I've never had a proper job! Who wants to grow up?

Most model shops were situated in secondary locations. It's why I chose the Trafford Centre - the most prestigious high profile, high footfall shopping centre in Europe to see how models would perform in this environment. The answer was very well indeed and the original unit was expanded to three, each time engaging shop fitters - an expensive business. Despite reassurances from landlords that after five years the lease

would be renewed, we had to move to a more expensive main mall location near Next and Debenhams requiring another shop refit. I wanted to stick to the script selling models, not become a property developer, working for landlords and banks.

TMC Trafford was a destination store so we could operate more or less anywhere within the malls. I'm sure this influenced the present beautiful rural location which has been greatly assisted by the internet revolution. I wish I could say this was all

TMC's workshop demystifies the processes it offers. Its experienced modellers work their magic across a host of customisation projects from rolling stock to buildings, each time their creations on view drying aside their work stations before despatch to an eager customer

planned, but it was a case of being in the right place at the right time.

The present TMC mantra is the same as it was in 1998, quality value and service. This has been refined slightly by introducing the workshop from day one in Beck Hole August 2007, to showcase the latent talent of the TMC team.

HOWARD: Since 2007, how has TMC evolved and what do you think it could be doing in five years' time?

CHRIS: Still here but with more shop customers. The numbers increase each year as more people find out about us and that we don't 'just do weathering', but are a fully stocked model shop. Improvements on our website and online offerings will also enhance that side of the business. There will be more special commissions and hopefully we can develop more products like our plate and bolster wagon loads.

In-hi to re acce

HOWARD: With many different aspects to the business, does running TMC feel like spinning plates at times? Who does what in the team?

CHRIS: Business is simple, keep your costs screwed to the floor and if buy right you should sell right. The caveat is 'give the customers what they want'. This diversity of services can be challenging and certainly has felt like being a plate spinner at times. With such a high proportion of our business being repeat business and knowing how keen customers are to receive items, the pressure is on to keep delivery times realistic and short. We're constantly adding the right people to the team. We have a great mix of young and old which works really well -youth and experience.

Robert and Richard primarily perform weathering. Paul re-numbers and applies transfers, parts and DCC sound, and Andy and Alex also 'chip in' at busy times! We all help each other to clear backlogs. Chris Duncan, Alex, Mikey, Jay and Andy work on customer services providing the fulfilment, which covers answering the telephone, picking and packing orders, photography, testing, quality control, stock control and buying, website management and compiling adverts for the model press.

HOWARD: Tell us about the decision to produce your latest exclusives, is someone responsible for choosing each? How closely do you work with Bachmann?

CHRIS: We've a history of working with Bachmann and have a very good

In-house transformations vary from complete resprays to renumbering with transfers, weathering, fitting DCC or accessories such as lamps, jumper cables or lights.



More than a centre for locomotive and rolling stock transformation, TMC is a fully-stocked model shop, with a vast-array of consumables, building materials, glues, scenic items, paints, track and so much more.

relationship. We're always confident of getting high-quality products from them. The choice of exclusive models is getting more difficult because of an increasing number of manufacturers and large retailers manufacturing direct. We consider many models for exclusive tooling, even more for limited runs from existing tooling and many people here contribute their thoughts.





Before and after. TMC's 'Covhop' sugar hoppers were commissioned from Bachmann and available in pristine or a variety of weathered conditions as a four-pack. Read our review of these models in our September 2016 issue.

Moved to Hill Farm Beck Hole. The lure of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway proved too much - it runs in a cutting at the bottom of Christirieway.

2007

Purchased the TMC name from Modelzone who acquired it in 2005 and started afresh at Hill Farm Beck Hole taking over the chicken shed.

Spray booth installed and workshop fitted out.

2008

First Bachmann Scencraft TMC building arrives
- Birch Hall Inn Pub. Developed into a series
known as the Heartbeat collection also featuring
The Aidensfield Arms, Scripps Garage, Goathland
Church, Goathland Station and Extensions.



The peeling paint effect on TMC's 9F offering is a delight to see at close quarters. Weathering effects are to customers requirements, ranging from a light dusting around valvegear on locomotives to the heavy staining and blistering seen here. Simply add your effects and accessories upon checkout on the website, or call to discuss with a member of staff.

The final decisions are taken by a small group of us, not just me. We have to be comfortable that we have a good chance of selling the minimum quantity in a reasonable timeframe. The manufacturer has to be comfortable too.

We've always wanted to make an exclusive locomotive. Some candidates were ruled out because of cost, others because of a high risk of duplication. Of those that remained the G5 ticked all the boxes. Tank locomotives are popular and the G5s were based at various times from the London area up to Aberdeen. We found almost 50 tooling/ livery combinations and we try to ensure that tooling covers different variations. This gives our models more potential beyond the first run.

HOWARD: You've assembled a skilled team and business is booming - are there aspects of model manufacturing you feel could be returned to the UK to simplify production lead times?

CHRIS: Production lead times are one of the more challenging aspects of the hobby,

especially for the major manufacturers. It wouldn't surprise me if more production, particularly with smaller manufacturers, is returned here over time. I'm not sure this would either simplify production or reduce costs in the short term though, but it might get products to market faster.

HOWARD: Are there unexplored avenues within the hobby that you feel TMC could explore?

CHRIS: We're always trying to develop new ideas. With the help of new technology who knows what it'll lead to, mindful of sticking to the script and not straying too far - watch this space...

HOWARD: There's an element of risk for a retailer in commissioning a new model. You commission directly, is the crowd-funding route not for TMC, or something that hasn't been explored? What are your thoughts on crowd-funding?

CHRIS: I'll be blunt, I feel crowdfunding isn't for us because I believe there's so much that can go wrong. A Chinese factory recently closed with little warning, causing

problems for a number of North American companies. In using Bachmann or one of the other established manufacturers, rather than going direct, we're reducing the chances of such an event affecting us financially and our customers aren't affected if something goes wrong, other than occasionally being frustrated by delays.

HOWARD: Do you feel confident that the list of potential all-new exclusive models is plentiful without venturing into overly-risky waters?

CHRIS: The waters are becoming a bit shark infested, but there are still plenty of models to be commissioned. The problem is that whilst the increased number of projects being announced leaves more choice for the modeller - a good thing - commissions have to be carefully thought through because most modellers' spending power is unchanged.

HOWARD: Is TMC where you want it to be? Was there a vision when you started

we didn't want to be the same as other model shops, but evolve by adding value and creating custom models



With a reputation for limited edition exclusives, TMC doesn't just look to the age of steam for inspiration. Its commission of DB Schenker 66136 (32-738Z) is a prime example, with limited numbers available to purchase.

Made enhanced model of 60163 *Tornado* for A1 Locomotive Trust presented to HRH Prince Charles at York Station. Chris' son Alex joins TMC from Whitby College, later attending York College on a four-year course outside work for a Business and Finance Degree.

2012

Mk 1 Horse Boxes arrive, TMC's first exclusive model with new tooling.



TMC doubles in size with chicken shed two and second spray booth installed providing extra capacity to meet increased demand, keeping delivery dates prompt.

or has the customisation of models for customers been a natural progression?

CHRIS: I'd like to say it was all planned, but from day one we've been customer driven, which fits our aims. Attracting the right people with the requisite skills is also key. We didn't want to be the same as other model shops so we set out to be different. The hive of workshop activity appeals to me and many of our customers. In addition to personnel with latent talent we've invested heavily in technology and equipment to create an environment our team can flourish in. The view from their windows isn't bad either!

HOWARD: How do you think retailers will

fare in an increasingly online marketplace? Have you had to re-invent the rules as TMC became more online-orientated? CHRIS: I can only see online growing alongside customers' expectations of immediacy. Being in the middle of the North Yorkshire Moors we carry considerable stock levels covering over 20,000 product lines to enable todays orders to be despatched same day for delivery next day or the following. We sell at competitive discount prices and have an ever-expanding model shop offering to enable immediate fulfilment of orders. The growing number of customers who take the trouble to visit aren't disappointed. The immediate fulfilment refers to standard proprietary stock lines, anything requiring custom finishing would take a little longer, although we have hundreds of locomotives, coaches and wagons ready-weathered off the shelf for immediate despatch or collection.

HOWARD: Lastly, what are your thoughts on how the hobby will look in a decade, from a model shop/manufacturer/customer point of view?

CHRIS: These are interesting times on the high street. Even before the recent shake up and online marketplace revolution, model shops were in lower cost secondary locations. I'm sure this trend will continue. Model shops have always been destination stores, so customers will seek them out wherever they're situated. These locations naturally have less footfall which has to be made up with on-line sales. The worry for years was that the days of the local model shop are numbered and they are

disappearing as fast as pubs, but there are many start-up model shops with on-line offerings. Some of the nation's largest retailers have discovered how to adapt to on-line or die. Manufacturers like Bachmann and Peco avidly support the independent model shop which is reassuring and demonstrates a massive ongoing commitment on their part.

Hornby has changed its direction over the way it treated the trade in the last 3-5 years where its own concession stores and selling direct was the order of the day, but much damage was done to the trade in the process. Thankfully some of the good people they lost have returned to steady the ship with a new captain at the helm.



TMC's latest arrivals - its 21T 'Plate' wagons in numerous guises with and without bolsters, stanchions and a host of other detail variations. Read our review of these excellent models on page 102.

a restaurant is only as good as its chef... someone once told me to never trust a skinny chef! Only joking and no reference at all to the fitness or otherwise of TMC operatives...

A MINUTE WITH CHRIS...

• Who do you admire in the hobby?

Merl Evans, he was 'World Class'. His vision at Palitoy Mainline, then Bachmann Branch-line set new standards for the industry and his legacy is testament to his achievements.

We owe Merl a debt of gratitude.



• What do you enjoy most about exhibitions?

Talking to customers and meeting new ones and having a laugh with them.

• How many models are in your collection? 25,000 and they're all for sale!

• Favourite heritage railway and why?

I absolutely love them all. The NYMR if I had to pick one, which runs past the farm. Drivers and firemen often whistle as they power up Beck Hole Bank or when they return coasting back to Grosmont.

I never tire of seeing the locomotives with steam and exhaust and hearing the lovely sounds and distinctive smells.

What's your biggest pet hate at exhibitions?

Packing up, driving home exhausted and no free bar for traders!

• Do you have other hobbies?

Dog walking, skiing holidays, country pubs with real ale and playing football. The sound of my team mates groaning when I'm picked for their side or when I score spurs me on! Anything to do with railways both real and model.

• What's the best thing about running a model shop?

Being involved in something that grows organically into a serious international business providing immense pleasure to many satisfied customers. Succession: My son Alex taking over the reins, providing continuity for his team and customers. I'm still around to meet customers, many of whom are good friends and enjoy a bit of good-humoured banter.



First exclusive locomotive commission, the G5 is announced at Model Rail Scotland with ten variants. Read about its progress in BRM.



DIGILEDITON EXCELLSIVE

TOUR OF TMC

Located in the heart of the North York Moors, TMC is not just a fabulous model shops but a thriving model custom finishing business with several exclusive editions to its name. Howard Smith meets and chats with owner Chris Yates.



WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)

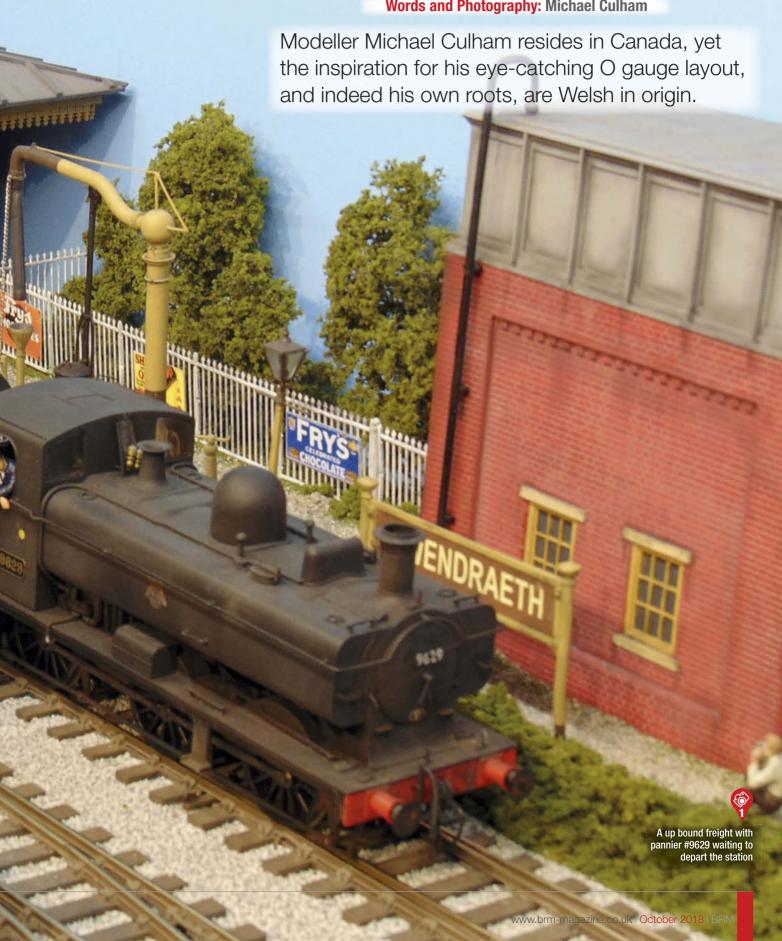




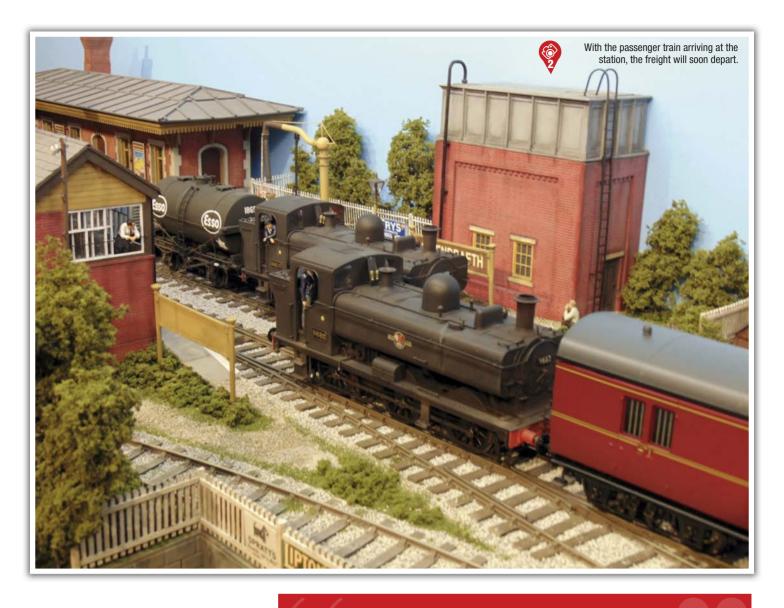




Words and Photography: Michael Culham



LAYOUT FOCUS



Ithough this is my first attempt at a 7mm UK layout it is not my first rodeo, as I have been modelling North American railways in O gauge for 35 years. I am a third generation O gauge railway modeller; my Grandfather had an O gauge steam layout and my Father had an O gauge trolley layout, so I teethed on O gauge trains. When I was five years old my Grandfather started teaching me how to hand lay track and I have not looked back since.

I have modelled in several scales over the years, from N scale all the way up to 1 inch scale live steam. For 27 years I modelled in HO, but back in 1997 I decided to go back to O gauge. It was easier to see and work with the small details, as age was catching up on me!

With this decision made, it was back to my roots. My railway would be named in memory of my Grandfather's layout, 'The Great Central Railway'. I understand he named his layout after travelling on the GCR ...my dad was third generation Canadian with roots in Wales, but where in Wales? It turns out that my predecessors came from a small village in the Gwendraeth Valley, so I decided my layout would be called 'Gwendraeth'

in the UK when he served in the Canadian army during the First World War. If you have ever read 'O Scale Trains' magazine over the past 10 years you may have seen the articles I have written on my different O gauge layouts. Two years ago I got the itch to try building a 7mm British layout. The British railway bug first bit me back in 1989, when my wife and I went to the UK for our honeymoon and to see her family. Lucky for me she likes trains as well, so we spent a lot of time riding trains

and going to heritage lines over the next 20 years on our visits.

Building a 7mm British layout – how hard could that be? Well, as I have found out, very hard when you live in Canada. I really did not know much about British railways and what was available on the market to model them. I went on the Internet to find out whatever I could, looking at all sorts of 7mm layouts and track designs. I read all the British train magazines. Finally, after about



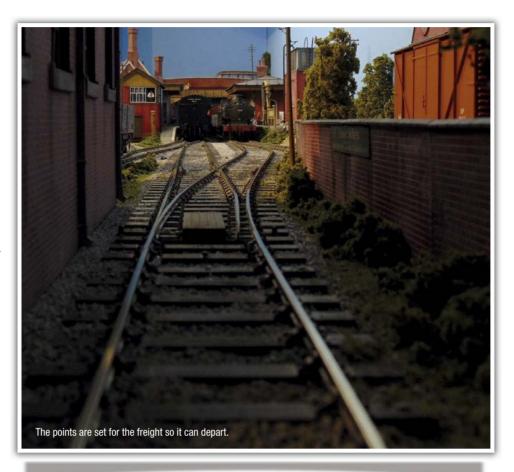
LAYOUT FOCUS

six months, I felt I was ready for my new adventure in 7mm.

My first loco was purchased, a Dapol Terrier in BR black and a couple of Dapol wagons. My head was spinning; what and where should I model. I thought of a small village with a terminus and started looking at prototype lines, ones that used the Terriers, and I came across the Hayling Island branch. This looked interesting, but while searching the web for what 7mm structure kits were out there that I could use, I came across a company called Timber Tracks and discovered they did a model of Culham station. Wow, we had visited it in 1989 on our travels to the UK, and I fell in love with it.

I decided I had to get it (for an obvious reason) and the other structures that were available for Culham that they also had.

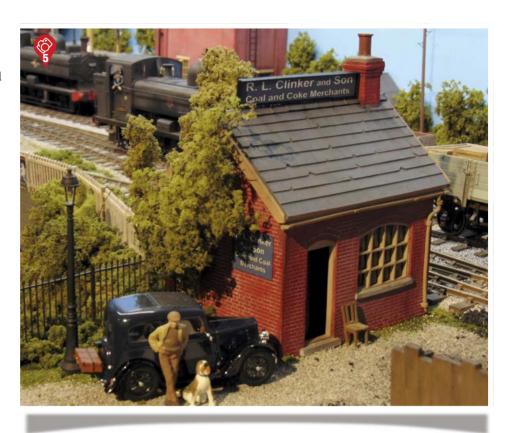
After more research on the Culham station area I discovered this would be too much for me to model. It was a main line station and I did not have the room to model it, so I thought okay, how about a fictitious village on a single track line that used the same structures. This sounded good, but what to call it. About the same time I was working this out I had been researching my British roots. I knew my mother was from Leeds and



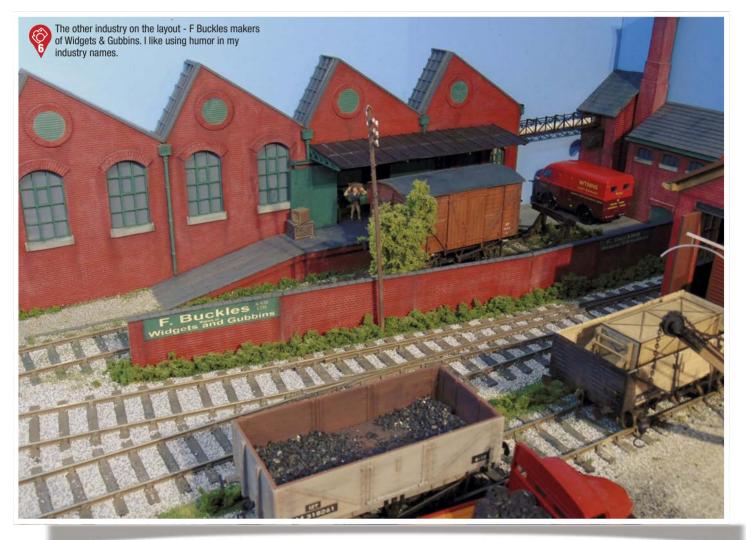


my dad was third generation Canadian with roots in Wales, but where in Wales? It turns out that my predecessors came from a small village in the Gwendraeth Valley, so I decided my layout would be called 'Gwendraeth' and it would be a Western Region line, as I kind of like the GWR. So I decided that my layout would be a Western region freelanced BR layout in the late fifties. Perfect!

With this decision made, it was time to put pencil to paper and work out the layout. There was an area in my basement that was eight feet long that I could use. Again I started looking at 7mm layouts for ideas on how they are built. Most of them were small layouts that were built to fit in a spare room and they would be made portable to take to shows. The size of my layout would be eight feet long and two feet deep, with a two track sector plate on one end as I was going to model it as if Gwendraeth was a terminus after the line had been cut back to it. The sector plate would be made removable, so when the layout was not in use it would not block the doorway behind it. This layout would be permanent as I am unable to do shows, due to health issues.



One of the industries on the layout. R. L. Clinker and Son Coal & Coke Merchant.





I used the general layout of the road and footbridge, stations, signal box and cattle pen at Culham but compacted them a bit. I added a small industry and a goods shed into the mix as well. Now I was all set to start building, so off to my local DIY shop for the lumber for the bench work, which I built out of 1 in x 4 in clear pine with a half inch plywood top and 2in x 2in pine legs, with 1/8th inch hardboard for the fascia and as end panels for the backdrop. The inside of these end pieces were painted a sky blue as well as the back wall the layout was built against. I then built a frame on the front to give the look of a proscenium of a stage - I once heard that a layout is like a stage and the trains are the actors coming and going from the wings.

All the outside frame and fascia were painted black. With all this done the bench work was ready for track work. I placed an order for the Peco track I needed. This is another thing I found out about 7mm British trains; that almost everything has to be ordered from the UK. Going to the local hobby shop was not an option, other

than for scratch-building material, scenery materials and paints. I was told about a shop called Tower Hobbies by a friend two years ago when I first started and I have dealt with them ever since; nice staff and good service. Structures for the layout have come from Timber Tracks, as mentioned, and Skytrex – both of these companies were great to deal with. Details and autos for the layout have come from various places, and 90% of the figures that I will use on my layout are from ModelU who make great looking 3D figures.

As mentioned, my first loco was a Dapol Terrier and since then I have purchased three Minerva Panniers, two of the 8750s and one 57XX and a Dapol/Lionheart 64XX Pannier along with a Dapol Class 08 diesel. I'm now waiting for the Dapol 14XX to be released. All my rolling stock is Dapol/Lionheart other than two Minerva Iron Minks. I am quite happy with my purchases, all are well made and the locos run great right out of the box.

Over the past two years the layout has progressed nicely and is now looking pretty good, if I say so myself, but there is still lots to do. I'm thinking of installing a three

track traverser at the left-hand end of the layout and will work on it over the next few months. This will improve the operation of the layout. I'm running the layout with DC at the moment but maybe I will change over to DCC in the future, but for now I have locos and rolling stock to weather, plus about a dozen figures to paint.

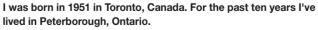
I'm glad I tried O gauge because it has given me a lot of pleasure, and I have met several new friends that model in 7mm. I have also joined the Gauge O Guild, which is another useful source of information.

How lucky can one person be – I have two great O gauge layouts, one modelling North American trains and the other British trains? Life is good. ■

thoughts on building Gwendreath

- 1. Two years ago I did not know anything about modelling a British railway layout and now I have a layout to be proud of. I have learned a lot over the past two years but still have lots more to learn
- 2. Building a 7mm layout was interesting as I had a chance to work in the true sense of 0 gauge and everything is done to fine scale. A big difference from what I had been working with doing North American 0 gauge.
- 3. Gwendraeth has not only ticked off an item on my bucket list, but has been a whole new experience in railway modeling, I have learned that layouts do not have to be big and that you can do a lot in a small space. Also, I have made many new friends in this hobby.





As far back as I can remember there have been model trains in the houses that my family or I have lived in. No wonder I'm so interested in model railways.

I have worked at several jobs over the years – 11 years at the CBC (Canada's version of the BBC) and 34 years working in different sales positions, which includes 13 years at a model train store. I retired three years ago and enjoy spending time with my wife, two dogs and working on my model railways.

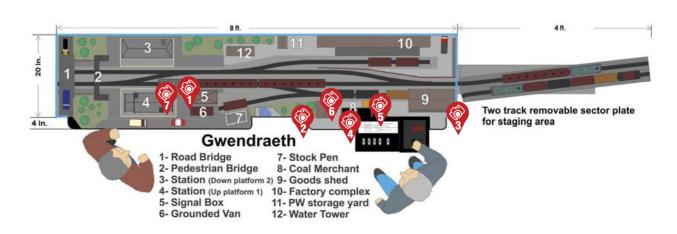




GWR 0-6-0 'Pannier' No. 9689 prepares to depart with its train.

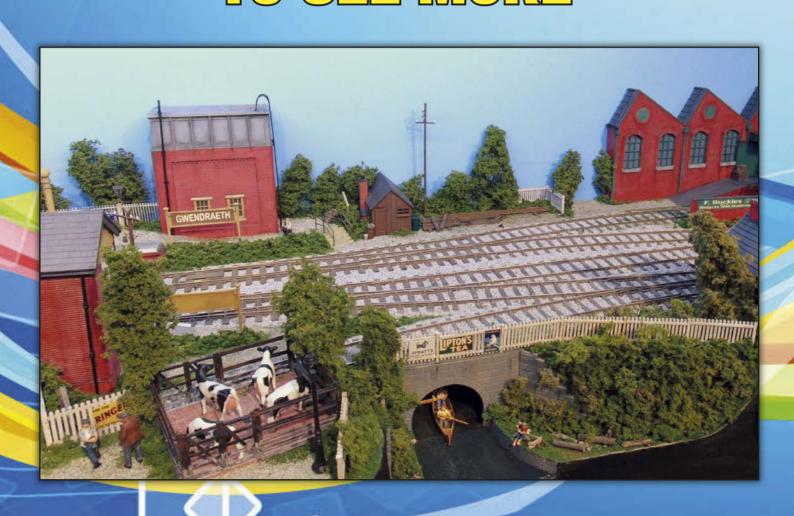
Trackplan

GWENDRAETH



BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING 1

DIGITAL EDITION EXCENSIVE CUCKAND SWIPE IMAGES



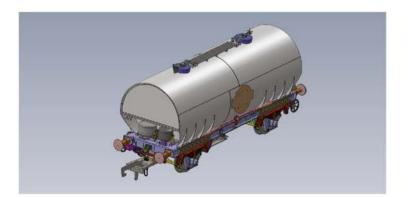


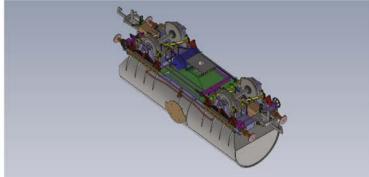


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Brighton Toy and Model Museum is home to an amazing collection of toys and models that extends under four of the Early Victorian arches supporting Brighton Railway Station. The Museum has over ten thousand toys and models in its catalogue, including two large working model railway layouts (in '0' and '00'gauge), from a range of classic early manufacturers including Bing, Hornby, Marklin, Bassett Lowke and more.

2 minutes walk from Brighton Railway station and bus services and 5 minutes away from convenient car parking, the Museum is the perfect place to begin your visit to Brighton.

Group rates are available on request so please get in touch for details.

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LAYOUT FOCUS

Words: Paul Taylor Photography: Andy York **Factfile** Layout name: Dovington Camp Scale/gauge: 4mm:1ft scale, 16.5mm gauge OO Size: 17ft by 2ft 6in Era/region: BR 1990 (Region varies) Layout type: Fiddleyard to freight depot



Military depots have long been a valuable source of traffic for Britain's railways, and a fascinating topic for modellers, as Paul Taylor confirms.

It all started from an off-the-cuff response to a question from a member of the public at an exhibition. When looking at two 'Lowmac' wagons, loaded with military vehicles, sitting in 'Whitchurch Canonicorum' yard, he asked "What are they doing there?"

My answer was: "Oh, they're waiting to be tripped to the MoD depot just down the line."

That was it, the seed had been sown and 'Dovington Camp' was born.

Why 'Dovington Camp'? The name is an amalgam of Bovington Camp, the Dorset home of the Tank Museum, and Donnington, the Shropshire MoD depot. The idea was to have both a name and a layout design that was deliberately vague in terms of its location. This would allow a variety of stock to be run and, given the fact that military buildings don't alter much over time, even different periods of operation. Indeed, 'Dovington Camp' started life as a 1960s shunting layout.

LAYOUT DESIGN

Our first outing was as a 6ft by 2ft layout building demonstration at the 2003 Nailsea & District MRC exhibition. In this form it was, in effect, a shunting plank, with trains being formed and then broken back down into the depot.

MoD depots are renowned for their tight curves - hence the survival of VEA short wheelbase vans into the 1990s - it was possible to squeeze the proverbial quart into a pint pot through the use of Peco Code 75 short radius and three-way electrofrog points and crossings. The result was a lot of trackwork in a small space, with overlapping sidings and a less than obvious run-round facility. The headshunt was designed to allow a shunter and either four 10ft vans or two VGAs, although longer rakes can be handled with some nifty shunting manoeuvres.

Over time a fiddleyard was added, which includes a cassette shelf, allowing a much wider selection of trains to be operated.

LAYOUT FOCUS



This is hidden behind the barrack block and parade ground. I like to have an area without tracks, to give context and appeal to visitors who are not as interested in the trains. The 'river board' allowed connection with my other layouts.

After working more closely with my good friend John Anderson on his layouts, the decision was taken to concentrate efforts on what is my favourite era of operations - the colourful years between the creation of Network SouthEast in 1986 and the start of privatisation in 1994.



The river board extension provides some scenic relief from the camp and acts as a link to Paul's other layouts.

Today, the layout is 17ft by 2ft 6in and operates with 10-12 trains, which vary according to the region of operations. The chosen year is 1990, in the build up to 'Operation Desert Storm' and prior to the cessation of Speedlink services in 1991.

LIGHTWEIGHTCONSTRUCTION

The layout is built on a 6mm ply framework with 9mm ply ends. This is quite lightweight but has stood the test of time. As previously mentioned, trackwork is Peco Code 75, with the main line ballasted using Greenscene fine ballast and the MoD sidings using a mixture of powders to represent the lighter

ash ballast often found in such locations.

The inlaid trackwork was created using scrap N gauge rail tacked to copper-clad sleepers, inserted at 6in intervals between the Peco webbing, using a track gauge to create an inside running rail/check rail. The road surface was created using cork tiles to the sleeper edge. The gaps between tile and rail between the rails were filled with readymade filler. A piece of plastic card, shaped to 1mm below rail height, was used to create a smooth surface by rubbing it along the rails. This was much more reliable than some other methods I have experienced.

Operation is via traditional DC cab control with two Gaugemaster hand-held

labout the author

Paul Taylor, 51, from Clevedon, North Somerset. Married with two grown-up daughters. For the last nine years I have worked as an internal auditor in the energy industry, spending lots of time away from home and having to fit modelling around family life.

My first train set was given to me at the age of two and my first layout was on the floor of an attic room. After the usual break for courting and getting married, which luckily didn't seem to take too long, I started my first proper layout after moving to Exeter in 1987. With space an issue, 'Penwick TMD' - a 6ft by 2ft N gauge depot and yard - was created to live on top of the bedroom wardrobes. It was soon doing the rounds on the exhibition circuit. Following a move to Clevedon in 1995, 'Whitchurch Canonicorum', a 11ft by 2ft 1960s BR(W) layout in OO gauge followed and developed over the years through many incarnations. 'Dovington Camp' was a part of that story.

00 GAUGE



LAYOUT FOCUS



controllers. Points are operated using single-pole-double-throw (SPDT) toggle switches and SEEP point motors with built in switching.

MILITARY BUILDINGS

As you will appreciate, getting access to MoD premises for research hasn't been possible and I am much indebted to three main sources of inspiration. Firstly, three excellent Telerail videos of the Bicester, Longtown and Chilmark/Marchwood military railways and secondly, the books *The Bicester Military Railway* and *The Army's Central Railway Workshops* (Lawton & Sackett). Finally, I am grateful to Paul Gandy

of PG Models, for a selection of images of MoD buildings.

The buildings are, in the main, scratchbuilt using plain and embossed plastic card, but based on real buildings. The fuel tanks are from Ludgershall in Hampshire, the old locomotive shed from Bicester, the flat-roofed stores from the old Second World War Ministry of Supply (MoS) buildings at Norton Fitzwarren in Somerset and the 'open' shed from Ashchurch. The vehicle repair facility is a Faller military kit, built pretty much as intended.

The barrack block started life as a Heljan cruciform US Court House kit.

However, I tend to think of these kits as 'a box of useful mouldings' and put them together in ways that were never intended to create something more in line with my requirements - in this case a 2ft 6in low-relief building based on the Territorial Army centre in Bristol.

To add interest, the design includes a shed at the front of the layout where the 'internals' are open to the public to view, something a little different to the norm. It also gives context and purpose to the building and the layout as a whole. I well remember many quizzical looks whilst gluing the roof trusses together from balsa strip! Whilst it was tedious at the time, the overall impression

A recent addition to the MoD locomotive fleet is a modified Hornby Sentinel 4w diesel, repainted in drab green. Here, it brings in a VDA and two VGAs off the main line.



ask the expert

One of the most eye-catching features of the layout is your collection of British Army vehicles. Where did you find them and are they widely available?

We are often asked about the source of the various military vehicles to be found across the depot. The standard Bedford MK lorries and Land Rovers are from the JB Models (now Airfix) range, as are the 105mm Field Guns seen as loads in OCA open wagons. The 'Warflats' are waiting to offload a variety of Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)) vehicles including Scorpion/Scimitar reconnaissance vehicles (Airfix), Spartan Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and Sultan command vehicles. The latter, together with one Warrior APC, an FV432 APC and Ferret armoured cars are all from Cromwell Models' 'Combat Ready' range of simple resin kits. For example, the Warrior is a five-piece kit (hull, two track units, turret & barrel) with bags of detail moulded in that just needs to be brought to life with a paintbrush. Also to be seen are two Revell Warriors, a Forces of Valor Challenger battle tank and various items from BW Models (whitemetal kits, whilst the engineers' earthmovers are repainted Wiking models.







was well worth it. Alongside the shed is an office building with meeting room, office and toilets, all visible to viewers.

ROYAL VISIT

Having arrived in the Queen's Flight helicopter (a converted Revell Westland Wessex), Her Majesty and Prince Phillip (Preiser figures) are presenting new Regimental Colours. On parade are Airfix bandsmen and Colour Party figures. Being made from the old 1960s polyurethane, they do not take paint well. The solution is an undercoat of Halfords grey primer as a base for Humbrol acrylics.

The soldiers have all had their 1960s Lee Enfield rifles replaced with more appropriate SLRs. Uniforms are generic so that they can represent regiments linked to the area of operation, for example the Scots Guards when we're operating Scottish Region stock.

Another cameo which receives many comments is the archaeological dig, where Channel 4's *Time Team* is being filmed as they uncover a Roman Villa, with baths and a tessellated pavement (mosaic). As a long-time fan of the programme, I wanted to include a dig as an unusual cameo.

Fans of the programme will recognise many of the early 'cast', gathered round a finds table doing a piece to camera, including Tony Robinson, Carenza Lewis, Robin Bush, Phil Harding and, of course, Mick Aston and his stripy jumper! Elsewhere, Victor is creating a painting of what the villa would have been like circa 240 AD. In true Time Team style, the figures arrived from another dig on my previous layout, 'Whitchurch Canonicorum'. Roman remains were fabricated from DAS clay and statuary finds from various Preiser figures. The mosaic is based loosely on one in Dorchester Museum.

FREIGHT SERVICES

Trains fall into two categories; MoD traffic exchanged at the depot gates and those serving other facilities on 'the branch' which utilise the run-round facility outside the depot.

MoD traffic is handled by specific Speedlink trains, usually hauled by appropriate Railfreight Distribution sector Class 37s and 47s. Wagons include the full range of BR air-braked vans (VAA-VGA), OCA opens, 'Warflats' and 'Warwells', as well as some containerised traffic, which will be correctly paired with barrier wagons



Inside the transshipment shed VEA vans wait to be loaded with their next 'classified' cargo. Various widely available models have been adapted for military use on the layout.

as required. Occasionally, Army internal vehicles are transported between depots and some more unusual items are seen, such as the MoD flask carriers for 'safe storage'.

Three MoD shunters are available to work the depot. These are a Ruston 0-6-0 - a modified Silver Fox Class 07 kit on a Bachmann chassis; a repainted Hornby Sentinel 4w diesel and a small 0-4-0DM from a Knightwing kit on a Tenshodo SPUD motor bogie. All are based on photographs of MoD shunters in books.

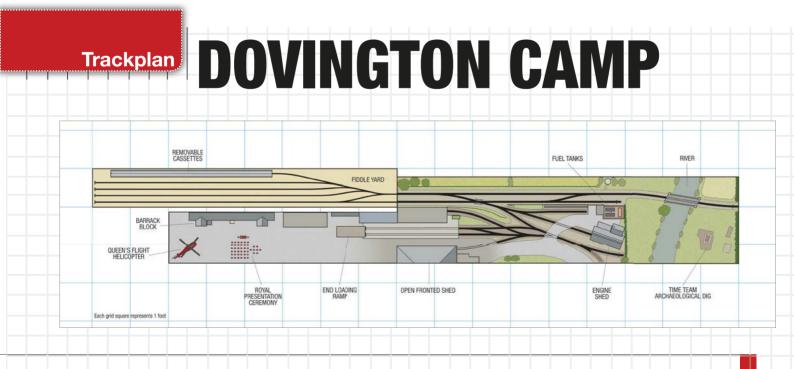
Other traffic depends on which area of the country is being portrayed on that day's operations but we will always try to represent actual or potential traffic flows for that area. The photographs depict a West Country operation, with flows that would have been seen in Devon at that time. All are powered by an appropriate locomotive.

John is the expert when it comes to detailing and converting locomotives and rolling stock, so the majority of items are super-detailed and weathered to a very high standard and I must thank him for making them available to run on 'Dovington Camp'.

It is this partnership approach that has enabled us to keep redeveloping the layout and keeping it fresh. We each have our preferred topics when it comes to modelling, and thankfully these are complementary. We have several layouts out on the circuit, plus replacements in production.

Finally, I must thank those that have helped and inspired me. John is always pushing me forward and helping me to develop my skills. Thanks should also go to Ellis Johns (military vehicles) and other members of Nailsea & District MRC for assisting with operation over the years. Finally, special thanks to my wife, Julie and daughters Cat and Jen for 'the views of the general public' and for putting up with my mess, even when I left the dining room table looking like it had lost an argument with an angry tiger!

www.brm-magazine.co.uk | October 2018 | BRM



ELGIN

Ted Burt chose an unusual Scottish prototype as the basis for his all-action exhibition layout.

Factfile

Layout name: Elgin Scale/gauge: N gauge Size: 11ft 4in x 8ft

Era/region: 1980s/1990s BR ScR Location: Scottish Highlands Layout type: Continuous loop Owner: Ted Burt

Photography: Tony Wright

See more: October 2009 BRM

gauge (1:148 scale) allows a good deal to be modelled in a given space. To be able to model trains running through a landscape, Ted believed that N gauge gives the widest options for most people.

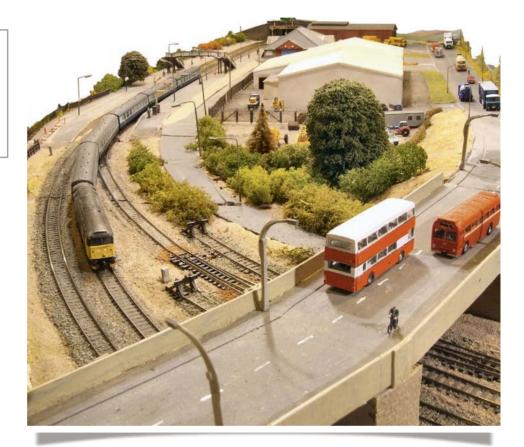
Ted's wishlist for an exhibition was that it should depict the 1980-1990 era, offer a variety of rolling stock with freight and passenger operations, have potential for shunting and be constructed with a view to exhibiting it.

Scanning books and railway magazines, he found that the Inverness to Aberdeen line, in particular Elgin, fulfilled these requirements. With his location and era chosen, Ordnance Survey maps were bought and consulted and a trackplan was drawn using this information alongside various photographs and video footage. The resulting plan suggested that 10ft was necessary to model the freight yard and around 6ft for the passenger station.

The road bridge to the east of the station was chosen as the location to 'distort' the trackplan from the relatively straight Inverness-Aberdeen prototype. The track is curved to either side of the bridge on the model and so the main line runs closer to the freight yard than in reality.

The modern station building was fairly straightforward, but the GNoSR station has a square section tower which transforms into a circular section with coned slate roof turret.

Wiring on 'Elgin' is kept relatively simple and the layout is controlled by a Gaugemaster UD panel-mounted twin-track unit, powered from a Gaugemaster M1 cased transformer. The goods yard is operated



from 'track 1' and the mainline from 'track 2'. Electrical connection across board joins is by means of double terminal (male/ female) screw strip connectors. The main line is singled beyond the passing loop of the station lines, so trains are isolated in the loop until the single section is cleared by the train from the other direction.

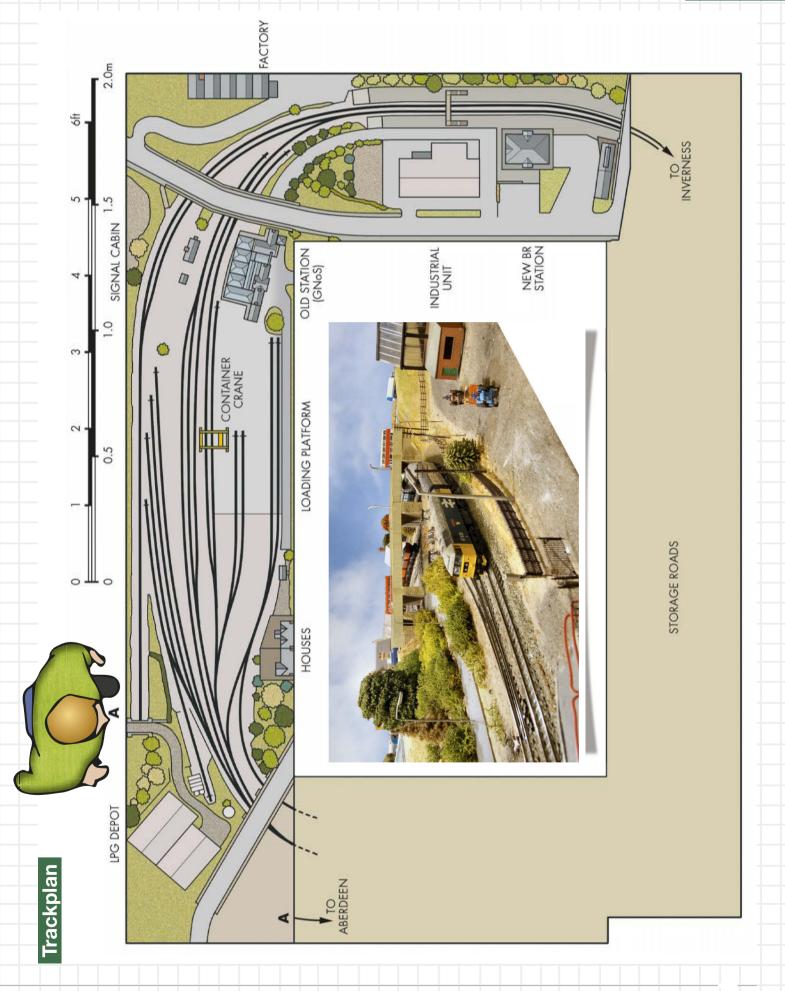
Points on the fiddleyard are Peco Insulfrog, so only the line set is powered, but each 'half' (Up or Down) can be isolated using miniature switches.

I Running lines extend round side of the layout at the Inverness side of the layout I Generous storage roads allow good variety of rolling stock to be displayed



- Wire in tube points sometimes prone to damage in transit
- I DCC would simplify operation and remove the need for isolation switches

Ordnance Survey maps were bought and consulted and a trackplan was drawn using this information alongoide. information alongside various photographs and video footage"





OWDIAM CENTRAL

A lot of landscape can be modelled in N gauge, it's the scale of choice for a layout that focuses on the general picture of the railway. But what if you want to achieve more?

o much can be achieved in the smaller scales, on both architectural and scenic levels. Elements that would otherwise have to be omitted due to their size or sheer intricacy in scales from OO upwards needn't be in N gauge - that is what attracts so many modellers to this scale.

ROOM FOR MORE? ALWAYS!

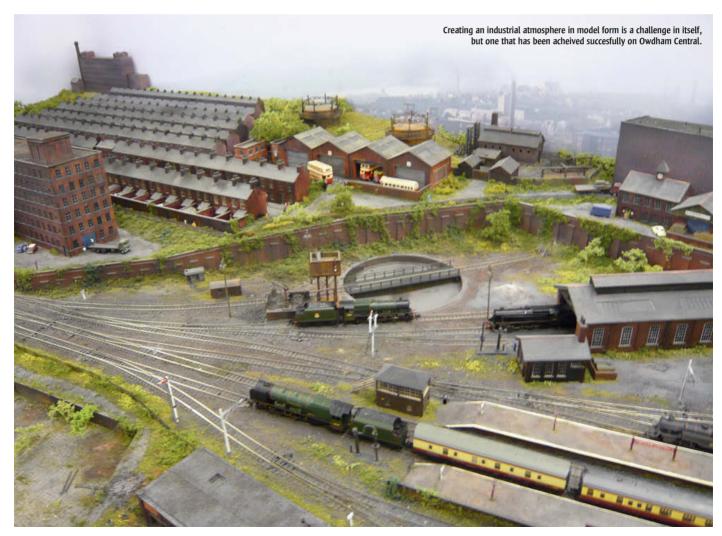
Few projects struggle to be modelled in N gauge, after all, the scale is a solution to modelling larger projects that won't ordinarily fit in OO gauge if short on space. However, you can go one step further and decide to fit more on a layout than the scale or space provided will allow.

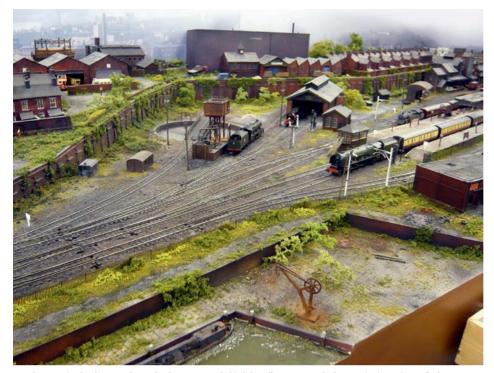
One of the many techniques becoming



increasingly popular is the use of forced perspective - a technique using multiple scales on the same layout, that decrease, the further away they are from the viewing point. What this offers the viewer is an impression that the model is in fact larger than actually is.

Forced perspective like most modelling techniques needs to be used in the right situation. A layout measuring no more than a foot in width for example has little need for such a skill, as there is little to be gained. Owdham Central however, at four feet in width, is the perfect candidate and here it has been used to full effect. The best use of forced perspective on a layout is when it becomes indiscernable from other areas and you'll see from the photograph below that the rows of houses seemingly 'disappear' the further away they are.





Forced perspective has been used to make the townscape behind the railway apparently decrease in size as it gets further away. This technique can be employed to make layouts seem larger than they actually are.

Indeed, so they appear, but the width of this layout isn't sufficient enough to create this effect naturally as they are always close to the eye. Instead, the first row of houses has been modelled to the scale of the layout at 2mm:1ft, but the rows decrease in scale progressively until they reach the row that is furthest away at a scale of just 0.75mm:1ft. Looking at the overall scene from the front, you'd never know!

Having smaller buildings to the rear of the layout helps the transition between three dimensional objects and two dimensional photographic backscene blend more easily.

ARCHITECTURE AND SCENERY

Neither architecture nor scenery looks out of place on Owdham, purely because no one element stands out more than the rest. The same range of colour tones has been used on all of the buildings throughout the layout, but you may notice that the colours darken in tone ever so slightly towards the rear of the layout. This takes into account how you would most likely see them through the industrial smog. You'll also note that the backscene has a faded haze to it and adds furthermore to the scene.

Despite depicting an industrial town depot, the quantity of scenic scatters and bushes used on the layout is actually quite surprising. Undeveloped or unkempt areas that have been neglected over the years are plentiful, from the vegetation creeping over the motive depot's retaining walls to the land surrounding the mill pond, this layout is surprisingly green. **BRM**

FACT FILE

- **LAYOUT NAME** Owdham Central
- **SCALE/GAUGE** 2mm:ft scale, 9mm gauge N
- **SIZE** 10' x 4'
- **ERA** late-1950s
- CONTROL DCC
- ▶ LAYOUT TYPE Continuous loop
- PHOTOGRAPHY John de Freyssinet

FOR

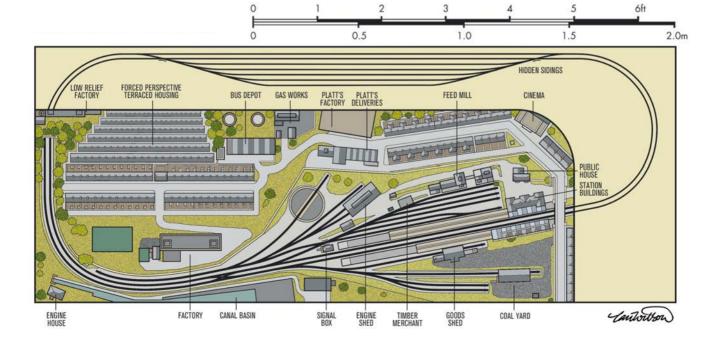
- ✓ A lot of track in a smaller space
- ✓ Good use of forced perspective modelling
- ✓ A well balanced layout with enough elements to justify different operations
- ✓ The boards are very busy with different items yet don't look overcrowded.

AGAINST

 $\ensuremath{\boldsymbol{\varkappa}}$ More could be done with the space to the right of the layout.



The curves on Owdham are surprisingly sharp, but necessary in order to circulate around the houses.



A DAY ATTHE MUSEUM

Big kids at heart, Andy McVittie and Phil Parker enjoy a day out at the seaside, although most of it enjoying the incredible exhibits at the Brighton Toy Museum...



he Brighton Toy Museum is something of a hidden gem, being tucked away on a street running beneath Brighton Railway Station. It's a very short walk that's well worth taking, however, as its modest exterior gives way to what can only be described as an Aladdin's Cave of childhood playthings with railway modelling at its very core.

Founder/Director Christopher Littledale

was on hand throughout our day, guiding us around his impressively capacious and beautifully presented collection. An expert modeller himself, he ensures that everything is ship-shaped, making repairs as needs be, and even running the vintage model railway that forms the centre of the museum for our enthusiastic benefit.

Phil Parker describes just a few of the highlights among the many thousands of

items on display. In the meantime, our thanks to Christopher Littledale and Deputy Manager Jan Etches for a cracking day out, and to Michael Foster for making the arrangements. The Brighton Toy Museum is located at 52-55 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, BN1 4EB, and it is recommended without a moment of hesitation − see www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk for more details. ■



Museum owner Christopher Littledale at the workbench where he carries out extensive restorations of the exhibits.



Hornby three-rail O gauge, 4-4-0 *Bramham Moor* manufactured in the late 1930s, hauls the Clacton Pullman train. The LNER D49-class was the fifth member of the No.2 Special locomotive range, replacing the original (also D49 Class) No. 234, *Yorkshire*, in 1935.



We were allowed behind the scenes to see progress on this magnificent 0 gauge warehouse for a future display.



Being so close to the site of the prototype, a model of the famous Brighton and Rottingdean Seashore Electric Railway's "Daddy Longlegs tram is very appropriate. The real thing ran through low tide.



The street scene features road vehicles from the Tri-ang Minic series from the 1930s and 40s. Manufactured in tinplate, they are powered by clockwork motors. Penguin kits, as advertised on the bus side, were Tri-ang's range of plastic models.



Shunting under the bridges and viaducts, orange gauge 0 "Bonzone" Peckett saddle-tank 0-6-0 locomotive made by Bond's of Euston Road in 1938, carries number "2".



How about a very early 4mm scale lorry kit? You were expected to do some serious modelling in those days! This was on sale in the museum shop, a treasure trove of old models and kits.



ARRIVING AT YOUR LOCAL MODEL SHOP...

Arriving with Graham Farish stockists this month are models of its Bulleid Semi open Brake Third coach in BR(S) Malachite Green S4019 (374-432) and Bulleid Third corridor coach in BR(S) Malachite Green S34 (374-442). Both models carry an RRP of £34.95. Set S84 comprises of four coaches which have been produced, made up with 374-432A (Semi open Brake Third) and 374-462 (Composite corridor).

Arriving with Hornby retailers is its 0-4-0 'Peckett' in all-over black carrying works number 883/1901. Representing its life-size counterpart No. 10, built for the Lilleshall Company of Oakengates, Shropshire the locomotive worked the company's extensive rail network between mechanical engineering, coal mining, iron and steel-making and brickworks until it was scrapped in 1958.







LEST WE FORGET

Fox Transfers is producing a selection of in-house designed commemorative head boards based upon the British Legion Poppy and fallen soldiers since World War One. Reflecting upon the role of the railways in the mobilisation of troops and the wounded, profits from the sales will be donated to the British Legion Charity No. 219279.

Headboards are to be produced in three gauges - N, OO and O, with different designs between the three scales. Already specialising in the largest range of British-outline model railway transfers, Fox's new headboards are etched and pre-painted with red, green and black enamels where relevant. See the full range on its website.

W: www.fox-transfers.co.uk

MODULAR WORKBENCH SOLUTION

Arriving in stock with Hatton's Model Railways as this issue went to press is a new Modular Workshop storage range, ideal for railway modellers. Using common dimensions, the combination of shelves, miniature cupboards, paint racks, brush holders and drawers allow a custom workshop or workbench to be built to suit your needs. Parts slot together requiring only wood glue and are connected by magnets for easy reconfiguration.

See the comprehensive range on Hatton's website – search for 'Hobbyzone'

W: www.hattons.co.uk





NEW RADIO CONTROL SYSTEM

The latest model railway control system from Train Engineer is now in stock with the UK's official distributor, Finescale Brass. The new CRE59000 Revolution radio control system is an upgrade on the current CRE57000 system and receivers with steam and diesel generic sound. The system has a published range of 400ft – ideal for gauges 0 and 1 in the garden, but isn't compatible with the older system.

Track and battery-powered models can be fitted with receivers that contain up to 16 sound recordings, control operation of the locomotive and can synchronise with smoke units.

The base system with a handset and receiver is priced at $\pounds 259.60$, with additional receivers at $\pounds 105.80$. Finescale Brass provides a fitting service at cost, for more details on this and the new system, visit its website.

W: www.finescalebrass.co.uk

DIESELS AT PENDON

Over the weekend of December 1 and 2, Pendon is to have running sessions depicting the early 1960s, showing a small selection of trains hauled by diesel traction. Diesel trains will run every half an hour interlaced between its traditional Great Western displays.

The chosen timeframe is on the eve of the appointment of Beeching and his famous report, which would sweep away much of the landscape depicted at Pendon. A Warship, Hymek and two-car DMU are expected to appear amongst others, hauling a variety of passenger and goods trains.

More details of Pendon, including its hosting of the Cornish branch terminus 'Bodmin GWR' (P4) operating in the year of 1928 on the same weekend, look under the events section of the website.

W: www.Pendonmuseum.com



BONUS LIVERY FROM IRM

Irish Railway Models ClÉ/Irish Rail 24850-24854 series ballast plough van is available to pre-order in original CIE condition in an announcement made this August.

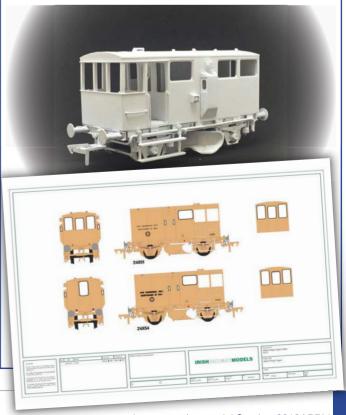
Five of the ClÉ/Irish Rail 24850-24854 series vans were introduced in 1978 to supersede elderly pre-grouping vans for the Civil Engineering Department. They usually ran in pairs, top and tailing ballast hopper trains with the plough/veranda facing inward across the Irish railway network until their withdrawal in 2013.

IRM had previously announced the vans in later IR and IE condition, but after calls from modellers, an additional pack in original CIE condition has been added to the production run, limited to 250 packs. The vans are to lack the later-applied mesh screening over the windows, featuring the half-sized doors on the veranda of each van. The livery will be yellow with CIE roundels.

The model will utilise the same chassis as the ballast hopper and cement bubbles, including a detailed interior, with bunks and heaters for the crew. DCC control of interior and tail lights via a two function 8-pin decoder (available separately) is planned. A switch for the control of these is to be provided for analogue users.

The Plough Vans will be made in a strictly limited production run with the vans coming in a pack of two priced at €119.95. Discount bundles are also being offered – for full details, visit its website.

W: www.irishrailwaymodels.com





DIGITAL EDITOR EXCELSIVE

UNBOXING CONCRETE DRAINPIPES

Small details can make a big impact on a railway layout. In this video Andy and Howard remove the wrappers on a selection of scenic accessories that are just right for the job.



E CHIONIE

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)







GAUGEMASTER Spotlight **Scenic Trees & Hedges**



Ready-Made Trees

Our bulk pack of trees are an economical way of filling large areas at a keen price. These trees also make ideal starting points for providing extra detail using the complimentary range of **GAUGEMASTER** Scenics.

The heights of the trees are provided as generally model trees are suitable for all scales, unless where noted.



GM120 Deciduous Trees (25) 9cm to 15cm tall £23.95



GM121 Mixed Forest Trees (25) 9cm to 15cm tall £23.95



GM122 Fir Trees (25) 9cm to 15cm tall £23.95



GM124 Spring Deciduous Trees (25) 9cm to 15cm tall £23.95







Seafoam Trees

GM127 N Scale Mixed Trees (10) 4cm to 10cm tall £10.95







GM128

Spring Trees (10) 8cm tall £12.95

GM129 Summer Trees (10) 8cm tall £12.95

GM132 Tree Pack Mixed (10) 10cm to 14cm £12.95

GM180 Plum Trees (3) 8cm tall £8.75



GM182 Fruit Trees (3) 8cm tall £8.75



GM183 Apple Trees (3) 8cm tall £8.75



GM184 Birch Trees (3) 8cm to 10cm tall



GM185 Weeping Willow Trees (3) 8cm tall



GM186 Poplar Trees (3) 12cm tall f8.75



GM187 Pine Trees (3) 12cm tall £9.75



GM189 Beech Trees (2) 12cm tall £8.75



Ideal for building up vegetation on your layout.



This starter set enables you to create trees, bushes, and hedging with a realistic appearance.

Seafoam is a natural product which can be 'planted' straight from the box if you wish, but adding scatter material with spray adhesive is well worth the effort.

GM195 Seafoam Tree Starter Set £19.95



GM156

Light Green Scenic Leaves £4.45

GM157 Mid Green Scenic Leaves £4.45

GM158 Dark Green Scenic

Leaves £4.45



GM162 Green 6mm (42)



GM163 Green £5.25



Plants 12mm Green (42) £5.25

GM149





GM159 Plants 12mm Yellow (42) £5.25

Hedgerows and Lichen

Hedgerows and lichen can be used to add additional green features to your layout right out of the packet! Combined with flocks/scatters you can get some great effects



GM160

Light Green Hedgerow Most suited to OO/HO Total Length 1 metre. £7.75

GM161

Dark Green Hedgerow Most suited to OO/HO Total Length 1 metre. £7.75



Light Green Lichen (80g)





GM165 Dark Green Lichen (80g)

£5.25



GM166 Mixed Lichen (80g)

£5.25



GM194

Scenic Starter Set

The perfect way to begin scenic modelling - this pack contains a small selection of trees, flocks, scatters, ballast, glue scenic mat and a puffer bottle, in fact just about everything you need to aet started in one convenient starter pack.

£24.95

Full details of our Scenics range can be found in the Gaugemaster

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

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

Gaugemaster Full Catalogue GM353

£3.95

FINESCALE MODEL WORLD SET OF SIX TWEEZERS



For picking and placing a variety of small objects when modelling, this six-pack of black epoxy-coated stainless steel tweezers from FMR are a must-have for modelling. Not only will they stay clean for years - if you keep glue and paint away from them - they're non-magnetic too, so won't attract all those stray pieces of wire wool and filings from your workbench. Available in sizes 7A, 5, 2A, 00, 3C and SS, they're cost-effective too!

Price: £4.50

W: www.finescalemodelworld.co.uk

GOLDEN VALLEY HOBBIES (GV2016) 'JANUS' 0-6-0 DIESEL SHUNTER No. 379 CAERLEON - ALLIED STEEL AND WIRE





Another fresh batch of this popular model arrives with Golden Valley Hobbies this month, in the attractive deep blue of the firm Allied Steel and Wire, ASW was an independently-owned British steel company formed in 1981 through a partnership between British Steel and GKN. Plants operated by the venture included GKN's Tremorfa Steel Works at Cardiff, its associated bar and section mills and Castle Rod Mill, also at Cardiff. DCC-ready with an 8-pin DCC socket, the model awaits weathering for the authentic industrial look.

Price: £99.95

W: www.goldenvalleyhobbies.com

GOLDEN VALLEY HOBBIES (GV6016) SEVEN PLANK WAGONS - THREE PÁCK





To coincide with the release of its latest 'Janus' 0-6-0 diesel shunter (see above), Golden Valley Hobbies has commissioned this three-pack of seven plank wagons from Oxford Rail. Sporting different running numbers and the logo of Allied Steel, the wagons are available from its online shop and selected retailers. Price: £29.99

W: www.goldenvalleyhobbies.com

THE MODEL CENTRE (PWL1 AND PWL2) STEEL PLATE SLABS





Pre-cut from plastic sheet, sprayed a metallic colour and weathered in-house by TMC staff, these new packs are ideal loads for placing on its new 'plate' wagons. One side of each sheet has been treated to a more rusted effect than the other, so you can portray loads that are new, or have been left out in the elements. Also useful for placing around a steelworks, construction site, or on the back of trucks in larger scales. Available soon from TMC are pipe loads for wagons and more. Read about them in BRM shortly.

PWL1 £4.95, PWL2 £7.95 www.themodelcentre.com







GAUGEMASTER (GM107) FLOWER POTS







Spruce up the garden or front doorstep of your miniature houses with this selection of colourful flowers, represented in a variety of terracotta-style pots. Designed for 00, but equally suitable for 0 gauge layouts as smaller pots, a similar set is available containing a representation of perennials in flower.

> **Price: £7.95** : www.gaugemaster.com





Joining its new Sensor Signal starter pack is this new multi-aspect modern signal and ground signal range from Train-Tech. Ground position signals are mainly used to control shunting movements in sidings or stations. Electronics are kept underneath allowing the signal head to be mounted as close to the surface requiring a single 10mm hole in the baseboard. The signal can be configured via a simple push button to display the original stop light (red and white) or the modern style (red and red). Can be used in conjunction with Approach Track/Return sensors from Train-Tech or manually forced using a switch.

£35.00

www.dcpexpress.com or www.train-tech.com for technical information.

Selling your model railways?

Warwick and Warwick have an expanding requirement for early to modern collections of British and Foreign trains and train sets from large accumulations to items of individual value. Our customer base is increasing dramatically and we need an ever larger supply of quality material to keep pace with demand. The market has never been stronger and if you are considering the sale of your collection, now is the time to act.





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FREE TRANSPORTATION - We can arrange insured transportation of your collection to our Warwick offices completely free of charge. If you decline our offer, we ask you to cover the return carriage costs only.

FREE VISITS - Visits by our valuers are possible anywhere in the country or abroad, in order to assess more valuable collections. Please phone for details.

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HORNBY MAUNSELL KITCHEN/DINING COACH (R4816) SR GREEN AND (R4817) **BR GREEN**





Available in SR or BR green are these Mausell Kitchen/Dining coaches from Hornby. By 1925, the Southern Railway had settled on its new standard design corridor coach of 59ft length, 9ft width and 12ft 4in height, with 8ft bogies. Six First Class Dining Saloons were constructed for the Western section. Twenty six vehicles were constructed under Diagram 2651 for the London-Bournemouth, London-Portsmouth and London-Exeter services and seated twenty four passengers in four seating bays at one end, with the kitchen, pantry, service vestibule and side corridor at the other.

> Price: £47.99 (each) W: www.hornby.com or your local stockist

GAUGEMASTER (GM590) MODEL RAILWAY MAINTENANCE SET

Famed for stocking all the modelling essentials, Gaugemaster now has this useful pack of three cruciform and six flat miniature screwdrivers which includes a pair of tweezers and scribe in a small box. Supplied with an oil (pre-filled) and glass fibre pen - the ideal pack for dismantling RTR chassis, cleaning wheels and pickups and lubricating moving parts before reassembly

Price: £12.95 W: www.gaugemaster.com



HORNBY RAILROAD (R3692) GWR 14XX



Fitting into the most popular late-1950s to 1960s modelling era category, this new wallet-friendly arrival from Hornby is an ideal addition to a small branch-line terminus layout, or secondary route on the Western Region of British Railways around Gloucester. Designed to replace the Wolverhampton '517' class on light branch line duties, Collett's 1928 0-4-2T 48XX Class were of a similar but updated design. The locomotive depicted, No. 1424 was built at Swindon in November 1933, as No. 4824, allocated to Fishguard Goodwick shed. Post-war, the locomotive was renumbered as No. 1424 and spent much of its working life around Gloucester. The locomotive was withdrawn in December 1963 from Gloucester Horton Road and disposed of the following June.

> Price: £59.99 W: www.hornby.com

FINESCALE MODEL WORLD 30 PIECE MICRO BRUSH PACK

Micro brushes are a new product in stock with online model tool specialist Finescale Model World. Cleaning those hard to reach or delicate areas of models can be challenging at times - a task made easier by these smaller-than-cotton bud cleaners. Supplied in the pack are 10 each of the small white, medium yellow and large blue brushes, ideal for cleaning glazing when weathering or adding spots of rust to the sides of wagons.

£3.50

www.finescalemodelworld.co.uk



SANKEY SCENICS - BRITISH RAILWAYS MOTIVE POWER DEPOT SIGNAGE



Looking for the finishing touch for your small shed, MPD or diesel maintenance depot? Here's a selection from a new range of shed signage packs for N, OO and O gauge modellers spanning the 1950s to the late-1960s and beyond. Supplied on the pre-printed packs are a variety of signs, from depot names to 'Sound Whistle', office notices, timetables, danger signs, clocks, a variety of overhead warning signs, including the mid-1980s-1998 style.

> es: N: £4.95, 00: £7.95, 0: £11.95 www.sankeyscenics.co.uk

GAUGEMASTER (GM 189) LANDSCAPING WIRE MESH

Here's a lightweight solution for creating those undulating hills, embankments, rock faces or river banks you've always dreamed of. Made from aluminium mesh so it won't rust when wet, the pack contains a sheet which unfolds to a 75cm x 100cm size - enough when cut to size for micro and small and most medium-sized layouts, unless you're modelling the Swiss Alps! Ideal for use with its (GM100) Mod Roc plaster coating.

£18.50



BACHMANN LBSCR H2

Words: Graham Muspratt Photography: Andy York

he first H1 Class Atlantics were built to haul express trains between London and Brighton. They were designed by D.E. Marsh and such was the urgency for express motive power on the Brighton line that he borrowed a set of Doncaster drawings and made amendments. The result was five H1 Class locomotives, which were built between December 1905 and February 1906.

The second batch known as the H2 Class, as depicted in this Bachmann model, were to Marsh's design, but modified by his deputy, L. Billinton. Changes included superheating, larger cylinders, a running plate, which

maintained a continuous line above driving wheels and cylinders and a reduced boiler pressure that was increased between 1936 and 1940 to 200psi to match the H1 class.

Six H2 Class locomotives were built at Brighton Works between 1911 and 1912 and remained on front line Brighton express work until the arrival of the King Arthur Class 4-6-0s in 1925. They were named by the SR publicity department during 1925/6 after geographical features on the South Coast.

The model

Bachmann's efforts match well the dimensions, look, details and elegant lines of the prototype when compared to drawings and contemporary photographs.

Separately-applied fittings to the body include handrails, pipework, a smokebox dart and the characteristic LBSC lamp irons on the front buffer beam. The open cab is well detailed with a number of individually-fitted and painted parts with pipework, gauges, valves, regulator, reverser and tip up seats all represented.





The tender also includes open coal rails, fire iron stands and a cast metal full coal load to add weight. Other than those on the buffer beam, the middle and top lamp irons on the tender body are moulded rather than separate fitted items.

The diecast metal chassis is fitted with a three-pole motor, located in the firebox driving the rear driver axle via a gear tower, though no flywheel is fitted. The boiler is packed with weight to ensure good adhesion of the four coupled driving wheels, which are like the prototype. This has been achieved by them being slightly under the scale 6ft 7½in. The tight clearances between driving wheels, footsteps, cylinders and front bogie result in connecting rods with excess

Essential info

CATALOGUE REFS:

Catalogue Refs:

31-920 H2 Class Atlantic 4-4-2 2421 South Foreland SR Olive Green (note: was originally announced as being 2426 St. Alban's Head) 31-921 H2 Class Atlantic 4-4-2 32424 Beachy Head BR Black Early livery

RRP: £125.00

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

Era: 2 to 4 plus preservation

Company/Operator: NER, LNER, BR(E)

Weight: 138g

Body and chassis: Plastic

Miniumum Curve Radius: 438mm (R2

Wheel Profile: RP25 Couplings: Tension lock

Accessories: vacuum pipes, steam pipes, engine head signal discs, open or closed cab doors, cab weather sheet uprights, cosmetic screw couplings, front guard irons and front cylinder corner infills

Drive System: 12V DC 3-pole motor with gears

to rear driving axle (no flywheel) **DCC Provision:** 21-pin socket

Pick-ups: Contacts to rear of driving wheels

and to front and rear tender axles.

play, probably more obvious in its pristine finish because of reflections than if slightly weathered. The front bogie and rear trailing axle are slightly sprung, the latter being a pony truck with plenty of swing between the fixed 'dummy' side frames. Brake blocks and factory-fitted brake rigging are fitted to locomotive and tender with the locomotive chassis featuring sand boxes and sand pipes.

On test

Running on our sample was smooth and quiet across all speed ranges and in a test, it hauled eight Bachmann Mk 1 coaches on the level with relative ease and no wheel slip on starting.

Electrical pickups are fitted to all driving wheels and the front and rear tender wheels. The tender is permanently connected to the locomotive via a fixed length drawbar (although the locating pin on the tender is adjustable to reduce the gap) and a

four-wired connection that is plugged into the tender.

A 21-pin socket is located in the tender along with space for a 23mm diameter sound speaker, a speaker mount bracket and screws are included within the accessory pack.

The livery application for the Southern Railway Maunsell Olive Green with white and black lining is well applied including the rear trailing truck side frames, though not all Class members had these so lined. The tender frames are correctly plain black. The lubricator boxes atop of the splashers are picked out in brass and the cast nameplates and cabside number plates are neatly printed. A nice touch are the etched name and number plates included for the owner to fit.

Verdict

The introduction of these elegant-looking locomotives with character of pre-grouping origin are sure to prove popular with LBSR, SR and BR(s) modellers. Bachmann's options for further liveries include LBSC umber, SR Malachite green, wartime black and BR lined black. It's understood that provision has been included within the tooling for a number of the details changes that took place over time. Highly recommended.





TMC 22T PLATE AND BOLSTER WAGONS

Words & Photography: Andy York

hen is it better for modellers that a product is produced as an exclusive for one commissioning retailer than it being a catalogue release distributed to all stockists? This range of 22T plate and double bolster wagons commissioned by TMC for one; there is no way we would see this breadth of range of individualised variants appear in a main range. How does this happen? A manufacturer needs to produce several thousand models from a new tooling to make it viable as a product but that means it would take a commissioning retailer a long time to sell several thousand of two or three livery variants as would normally be seen so some clever thinking needs to go into the selection of a variety of products based on the same wagon family and tooling suite.

There is plenty of variety in this wagon range right from the early as-built double

bolster wagons, principally for the LNER from 1937 onwards and also for the LMS from 1942. In this form the models include the early plate-fronted RCH W-irons and the bolsters and stanchions on the deck of the wagon. At the same time Darlington and Wolverton works produced the same basic wagon design without bolsters as Plate wagons for carrying steel plate sections on the deck through into the nationalised period, a variant accommodated in the model's tooling. As years progressed a number of wagons lost their bolsters to become plate wagons, these are identifiable in model form with securing loops left in place over the deck of the plate wagons. Differences in the reinforcing irons on the ends of the wagons are also recorded with both welded and rivetted forms, later wagons also have solid W-irons so there are many variations before we even get to liveries.

The vast majority of wagons would have been in unfitted grey through to the TOPsera ZDO but TMC's creativity extends to departmental uses for their later life and wagons dedicated to specific locations and uses such as the Lackenby wagon. In all cases the liveries are well-executed to Bachmann's usual high standard particularly with respect to the numbering and lettering.

The underside of the wagons is as good, if not better, as any we have seen from Bachmann with planking detail and quite fine clasp-brake detail.

TMC have made the more prevalent examples of the wagons available as twin-packs and the more unusual wagons as single items, the pricing of £24.95 for a single wagon and £49.96 for the twin-pack puts them right on the expected price of a top-quality wagon at this time. TMC are renowned for their weathering service and





Essential info

CATALOGUE REFS:

38-825Z Double Bolster Wagon Freight Brown Livery B920055

38-826Z Double Bolster Wagon Twin Pack Freight Grey livery M726282/E286444

38-827Z Plate ex Double Bolster Wagons Twin Pack Freight Grey livery E310418/B920098 38-828Z Double Bolster Wagon LMS Bauxite

livery 726018 38-829Z Double Bolster Wagon LNER Grey livery 250641

38-830Z Double Bolster Wagon Olive Green/ Freight Grey livery DE250482

38-850Z Plate Wagon ZDO Freight Grey livery DB931321

38-851Z Reach Wagon TDB931937

38-852Z 'Winkle' Wagon Engineers Black Livery DB997539

38-853Z Barrier Wagon Olive Green livery

B931873

38-854Z Plate Wagon Twin Pack Freight Grey B930287/M498695

38-855Z Plate Wagon Freight Grey E239992 38-856Z Plate Wagon Lackenby Works Freight

Grey E212085I

RRP: £24.95 (single), £49.96 (twin pack) Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76 scale OO

Era: 3 to 7

Company/Operator: LNER, LMS, BR

Weight: 36a

Body and chassis: Plastict

Miniumum Curve Radius: 438mm (R2)

Wheel Profile: RP25

Couplings: NEM mounted tension lock Accessories: Buffer-beam detailing and 3-link

coupling chains

customers may choose to have their wagons supplied with light, medium or heavy weathering for just £5.00 extra per wagon. TMC can also provide steel plate loads, relatively clean on one side of the plate and more rusted on the reverse, for £4.96 and painted and chained pipe loads for £19.99. Please see their website for more details in this respect.

The models are excellent and will personally cost me a bit, as I really can't decide which wagons to retain for my own use and which, sadly, will have to go back after the review!



38-852Z - Between 1951 and 1956 BR Shildon built 43 plate wagons specifically for the Signal and Telegraph Department. They were originally distributed throughout the London Midland and Scottish regions. Livery was Engineers Black with Straw lettering, although during the 1960s repaints led to them appearing in other Engineers or non-standard liveries. DB997539 has welded sides and rivetted ends with plate front axle boxes and RCH W irons. These wagons were coded WINKLE, the model is produced in pristine condition but TMC are able to produce custom deluxe weathered versions to make sure your WINKLE is unique.



advent of British Railways. M726282 was part of a batch of 1050 built between 1945 and 1949. It has welded sides and ends, split axleboxes and RCH W irons. E286444 was one of the final batch of Double Bolter wagons built by the LNER in 1946 to diagram 168. Both wagons survived long into BR days as revenue earning Double Bolster wagons and are reproduced in the Freight Grey livery these wagons carried in BR days.



DIGITAL EDITION SIGNATURE SIGNA

TMC WAGON

Arriving in 13 variants, and in single or twin-packs with range of weathering options, TMC's plate and bolster wagons are well-made and finely detailed. The only issue that Andy York now faces is which ones to buy...





WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

(You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)





DOUBLE O GAUGE ASSOCIATION TRACK RUBBER

Standard track rubbers are a cost-effective way of ensuring cleanliness. Fitting into the above category perfectly is this rail cleaning block from the Double 0 Gauge Association. Long-lasting with careful use, it'll keep your rails clean and avoid those embarrassing stuttering moments on running sessions with your friends. One for the toolbox.

Pros:

Cost-effective, tough on stubborn rail dirt, ideal for cleaning freshlyweathered track

Cons

Rails can be left with micro scratches which are prone to accumulate dirt. Rubber debris and fine particles must be hoovered from rail gaps which eat away at the rubber.

Verdict:

Gets the job done - something every toolbox should have.

£4.80 or £3.00 for members www.doubleogauge.com





A little known fact is that graphite works wonders on model railways for conducting electricity on the rail/wheel interface. It won't clean your tracks of dust and debris, so prior cleaning is required, but once applied, the graphite forms a long-lasting layer, transforming the electrical reliability of your pickups and wheels.

Pros: Long-lasting, a small amount goes a long way. Doesn't need to be re-applied often - once a month on average. Leaves a metallic steel finish on rails.

Cons: Graphite prolongs track-cleaning intervals, but applying it after cleaning the track on larger layouts can be quite labour-intensive.

Verdict: Not a 'magic solution' to clean track - it won't stop accumulation of dust and dirt, but a cheap way to considerably prolong your cleaning intervals.

Price: From £1.97-£5.00 W: See your local model or art shop

DAPOL (B800) MOTORISED TRACK CLEANER

A non-self-propelled three-in-one solution for cleaning track. Designed to be hauled by a locomotive, a motors powers a large rotating cleaning head that removes built-up grime on rails, whilst its on-board fluid reservoir provides adequate storage for a suitable cleaning fluid, which is fed to the cleaning pad. An onboard vacuum removes dust and fluff from the track. Replacement heads, pads and consumables are available from Dapol.

Pms. All-in-one solution for cleaning rails with a bonus of removing track debris. Ideal for cleaning large layouts - can be set off and left to do its work. DCC-ready with 8-nin socket

Replacement heads, pads and consumables are available from Dapol.

Cons: Can't be used over areas of track where surrounding terrain is proud of rail height - level crossings, cobbled sidings or dockyards and track with weeds for instance

Verdict: A hefty investment, but one of the most effective track cleaning solutions on the market.

Price: RRP £79.92

W: www.dapol.co.uk or your local Dapol stockist

dapol

VIESSMANN 7840 TRACK CLEANER WITH GRIP

Viessmann's track rubber on a handle is an upgrade over standard rubbers. Designed to reach those inaccessible areas such as underneath tunnels or hidden fiddleyards. Its pivot point is particularly useful, allowing large sections of track to be cleaned with each swift pass.

Pros. Low-cost and useful for cleaning beneath overhead lines. Pivot maintains rubber level with track surface.

Cons: Debris left behind might also be hard to reach - keep a vacuum cleaner with a fine nozzle to hand.

Verdict: Ideal for reaching places where a standard track rubber can't.

Price: £9.25

W: www.gaugemaster.com



TEN COMMANDMENTS CLEANING WAGON



Not long stocked with the Fife-based model railway accessory specialist Ten Commandments are these new cleaning wagons with two pads. Connect to a locomotive and run around your layout to remove dust with ease. Designed to be used without cleaning fluid, but supplied with sticky-back replacement pads to be cut and fitted as replacements.

Pros: Ball bearings weigh each arm down to rails, ensuring sufficient contact to clean.

Cons: Not as much cleaning force as similar wagons, but cleans track nonetheless.

Verdict: Available in N and 00 gauges, this solution is probably best used in conjunction with a cleaning fluid such as Deluxe Materials Track Magic.

Price: £40.00 (00 and N)

W: www.tencommandmentsmodels.com



Claiming to polish rails without scratching them, this track rubber from DCCconcepts is almost three times the size of the average rubber. Above all, it polishes track without scratching rails thanks to the round Aluminium Oxide particles it contains over many of its competitors which have sharp particles.

Pros: On test the rubber performs as it describes

Cons: Pads accumulate dirt in two areas only, wearing out faster than some of its rivals which rotate.

Verdict: We rate this as the best track rubber currently on the market, but even with light passes, a little debris is left behind. Follow up with a vacuum for best results.

Price: £10.96 W: www.dccconcepts.com

To be fitted with self-adhesive cleaning strips (provided), this coach from Hornby can be easily added ahead of a locomotive and propelled on a tour of your layout before running sessions. Replacement adhesive cleaning strips sold in packs of six provide three replacement pairs - more than enough for average use on layouts for a year or two. Pros: Works best when a cleaning fluid is applied to the pad. Great for cleaning track in tunnels and other hard-to-reach places. Cons: Pads are less effective after a few cleaning sessions because dirt accumulates in the same areas, unlike some of its rivals which rotate. Verdict: The most wallet-friendly propelled track cleaning solution. Works well, but pads must be changed frequently for best results. Price: £30.99 W: www.hornby.com

HORNBY (R296) TRACK

CLEANING COACH

DELUXE MATERIALS (AC-13) TRACK MAGIC 50mL

Deluxe Materials Track Magic is a special liquid cleaning fluid for model rail & car metal tracks, electric contacts and wheels. Track Magic works by dissolving, and mobilizing microscopic oily contaminants to leave a clean conducting surface for smooth and steady running. Track Magic creates an invisible protection film which resists surface corrosion.

Also available separately, its AC18 applicator pack, should your pads supplied wear out with use.

Pros: Supplied with a microbrush to clean wheels, power collectors and points, a pad to apply to rail surfaces and a dispensing pipette and beaker. Harmless on foam, acrylic and enamel paint. Prevents scratching rails which are polished, but dirty.

Cons: A more manual method of application than other solutions and not as abrasive on stubborn stains.

Verdict: Ideal for use in conjunction with propelled rail cleaners or simply apply with a lint-free cloth for more corrosion-resistant track. Can be used on its own as a universal cleaner to remove grease and stubborn marks.

Price: £9.50

W: www.gaugemaster.com



GAUGEMASTER HF 1

Of particular use to DC layout owners is this easy-to-install fully-automated box from Gaugemaster that cleans rails without the need for physical contact. Simply wire into the main track feed and connect to 16VAC and 12VDC power supplies and let the unit do its work. When resistance is detected because of poor contact between wheels and rail, a high-frequency signal is turned on, ionising the air gap between rail and locomotive wheel, burning off the dirt and residue. When contact is restored, the high-frequency signal overlay is turned off.

Pros: Effortless cleaning with no physical rail contact required by layout owners, reducing the risk of catching items when track is cleaned. Ideal for exhibition use when track cleaning isn't always possible in front of public.

Cons: Not compatible with DCC systems and some DC motor types. Check instructions before use.

Verdict: A great solution for track cleaning, but one that won't remove stubborn grime or paint if rails have been recently weathered. Will prolong intervals between manual track cleaning sessions.

Price: £41.95

W: www.gaugemaster.com

BACHMANN FVX BR MK1 CARFLAT

Words & Photography: Andy York



Essential info

CATALOGUE REFS:

38-900 BR Mk1 Carflat Wagon BR Bauxite 38-901 BR Mk1 Carflat Wagon BR Blue 38-902 BR Mk1 Carflat Wagon BR Blue Motorail

RRP: £36.95

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

Era: 5 to 8

Company/Operator: BR

Weight: 95g

Body and chassis: Plastic with metal weight **Miniumum Curve Radius:** 438mm (R2)

Wheel Profile: RP25

Couplings: EM mounted tension lock
Accessories: vehicle wheel chocks, dummy

buckeye couplings and brake pipes

It only takes a short period of looking at reference images of Carflat wagons to reveal that there's a multitude of differences between wagons, which were given a generic title and the same, or similar, TOPS codes. All such wagons were converted from surplus coaching stock to receive a flat timbered deck with hinged end flaps that could be lowered to allow vehicles to drive onto the wagons. However, there were many differences in frame lengths, bogie types, rails and end flap types.

Bachmann's model is the longer-lived variety that was based on redundant Mk 1 coaching stock and, within the three models available at launch, there are detail differences to note. Our review sample with Motorail branded side panels (in common with the unbranded blue model 38-901) features BR1 bogies, whilst the bauxite version sports B4 bogies more commonly seen on Mk2 stock. Oxford Rail's Carflat of 2017 was based on redundant LMS

stock frames and bogies, and would have seen earlier withdrawal in general, and so Bachmann's version is more suitable for those modelling later years of usage.

Widely used for the transportation of road vehicles from manufacturing plants to ports for export and longer distances for distribution, a rake of Carflats could swallow a large number of model vehicles. It is pleasing to note that Bachmann's wagon is well-balanced with a central metal weight sandwiched between the underframes and the planked deck to give 95g of mass, which leads to smooth and stable running qualities.

Synonymous with Motorail workings across the length and breadth of Great Britain the branded Carflat could be found behind rakes of Mk1 coaching stock of variable lengths dependent upon seasonal demand. The normal balance would seem to be two Carflats for every passenger vehicle, so a mixed rake could easily run up to 18 vehicles. If you had the space available

to model a terminal, what an interesting operation it would be with passenger stock at a platform shunted onto the loaded flats before departure! The heyday of the service would have been in the early 1970s. However, as car reliability improved and driving times shortened, the usage of the service dwindled and it was finally ended by privatisation.

Many of the reference pictures I looked at showed the wagons with planked end flaps but there were a significant number of later adaptations, which feature the plated end flaps as modelled by Bachmann. There's a wealth of modelling opportunity in the accessory packs, with 16 wheel chocks on sprues, sufficient for the four vehicles which could be accommodated on the deck, brake piping and dummy buckeye couplings both in dropped and raised positions.

I'm off to cut out some windscreen protectors and find some suitcases and bedding to stick on the back seats!



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6104 BR lined green w. late crest (6132(81C))

DUE SEPTEMBER 2018

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D1043 'WESTERN DUKE'

SRP £599.00





10th Keighley 7_{mm} Festival

Sunday, 14th October, 2018

Keighley Model Railway Club, Keighley Business Centre, Knowle Mill. South Street, Keighley, BD21 1SY 10.00am - 4.30pm

Adults £4.00. Children £2.50, no concessions please

At least 9 Quality Layouts inc. Guests - Extensive 7mm Trade support -Bring & Buy Stall - O Gauge Finescale & 16.5mm NG Test Track -Demos & Clinics - Full Quality Catering - Lift Access - Free Off-Road Parking For full details visit: www.keighley-mrc.org.uk

Advert sponsored by: Connoisseur Models & Haywood Railway

EXHIBITIONS

SEPTEMBER 29 - 30

The Garden of England Modelfest Coolings Garden Centre, Rushmore Hill, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7NN Opening Times: Sat/Sun 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £5.00 Accompanied under 14's Free. Discounted Advance tickets available up to 1 month before from www.gardenofenglandmodelfest.co.uk E: gardenofenglandmodelfest@gmail.com

Boston MRS Model Railway Exhibition Stickney Village Hall - PE22 8BG Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1700 Sunday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £3.00 Family £7.00 Child £1.00 T: 07958 137122 E: djcurrie@live.com

CONTACT US

DIARY DATES are now ONLINE!

As of the December 2016 issue of BRM, only a select number of Events will be listed within the magazine. For an extensive list of all Diary Dates please visit our website at the address below.

www.brmm.ag/brmevents

WEBSITE

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

Closing date for the December issue is October 9

Suitable for disabled visitors.

OCTOBER 6

Tring & District Model Railway Exhibition The Cottesloe School.

Aylesbury Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 0PD **Opening Times:** 1015 - 1630

Prices: Adult £6.00 Child £3.50 Family £14.00 (2+2) T: 01525 850703

Fareham Railex Fareham Leisure Centre, Park Lane, Fareham, Hamps P016 7JU Opening Times: Sat 1000 - 1730 Sun 1000 - 1630 Prices: Admission £7.00 Accompanied Children (under 16) Free W: www.fareham-mrc.org.uk/railex-2018

Swansea Railway Modellers Group Model Railway Exhibition Swansea Leisure Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, West Glam SA1 3ST Opening Times: Sat/Sun 1000 - 1700 Prices: Adult £6.00 Concession £5.00 Child £2.00 T: 07866521510

Mickleover Model Railway Exhibition Mickleover Community Centre, Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 0DA

OCTOBER 14

Keighley Model Railway Club 7mm Festival The Clubrooms, Knowle Mill, South St, Keighley, West Yorks BD21 1SY Opening Times: Sunday 1000 - 1630 Prices: Adult £4.00 Child £2.50 T: 01535 661173

OCTOBER 18 - 21

Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN Opening Times: Thurs/ Sat 1000 - 1700 Sun 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £9.50 (online) £10.50 (full) Senior £8.50 (online) £9.50 (full) Child £3.00 (online) £4.00 (full) (5-14) T: 01926 614101

OCTOBER 20 - 21

Hartlepool Model Railway Show Hartlepool College of Further Education, Stockton Street, Hartlepool, Durham TS24 7LB Opening Times: Saturday 1000 - 1700 Sunday 1000 - 1600 Prices: Adult £6.00 OAP £5.00 Child £4.00 Under 5s free Family £18.00 (2+3) T: 07956 063807

OTHER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 22

Derby Trains Only Swap Meet Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9GE Opening Times: Saturday 1030 - 1400 Prices: Admission £1.00 T: 07798 858535 / 01773 279407

OCTOBER 6 - 7

Apedale Valley Light Railway - Diesel Delights Apedale Valley Light Railway, Loomer Rd, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 7LB **Opening Times:** 1130 - 1600 T: 0845 094 1953

TRAIN & TOY FAIRS

SEPTEMBER 16

Ray Heard Train & Toy Fair - Newton Abbot Racecourse Newton Road, Kingsteignton Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 3AF Opening Times: Sunday 1000 - 1530 Prices: £2.00 T: 01823 480097

SEPTEMBER 23

Toy & Train Fair - Kidderminster Gilt Edge Leisure Centre, Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7DY Opening Times: Sunday 1030 - 1400 Prices: £1.50 T: 01270 652773 Tony Oakes

SEPTEMBER 26

Joe Lock Toy & Train Fair - Hertford Richard Hale School, Hale Road, Hertford **SG13 8EN Opening Times:** Wed 1900 - 2100 Prices: £1.00 T: 07866 641215

SEPTEMBER 29

Toy & Train Fair - Worcester Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester WR3 8DX Opening Times: Sunday 1030 - 1400 Prices: £2.00

T: 01270 652773 Tony Oakes

SEPTEMBER 29

International Stadium, Neilson Road. Gateshead NE10 0EF Opening Times: Sunday 1000 - 1500 Prices: Early bird tickets (from 9am) £5.00 Adult £3.00 OAP/Child £2.00

Jim Corr Toy & Train Fair - Gateshead

T: 07504 035955 **SEPTEMBER 30**

Barry Stockton Train & Toy Collectors Fairs - Wirral

Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight, Wirral Merseyside CH62 5DH

Opening Times: Sunday 1030 - 1430 Prices: Adult £2.00 Child £0.50 T: 0151 334 3362

OCTOBER 7

Barry Stockton Train & Toy Collectors Fairs - Haydock Park

The Exhibition Centre, Haydock Park Racecourse, Warrington Road, Newton-le-Willows. Mersevside WA12 0HQ **Opening Times:** Sunday 1030 - 1430 Prices: Adult £2.00 Child £0.50

OCTOBER 13

T: 0151 334 3362

Toy & Train Fair - Chester

The Cheshire County Sports Club. Plas Newton Lane, Chester, Cheshire CH2 1PR Opening Times: Saturday 1030 - 1430 Prices: Admission £2.00 T: 01270 652773 Tony Oakes

OCTOBER 14

Toy & Train Fair - Leigh Leigh Sports Centre, Sale Way, Leigh, WN7 4JY (off the A580, on A579) Opening Times:

Saturday 1030 - 1430

Prices: Adults £2.00 Children 50p T: 0151 334 3362

OCTOBER 21

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 from 1000 Adult/Senior £5.00 Child £3.00 under 16 T: 07504035955

DECEMBER 8 - 9

The National Festival of Railway Modelling East of England Showground, Oundle Road, Alwalton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE2 6XE **Opening Times:** Saturday 1000 - 1700

Sunday 1000 - 1600

Prebooked Ticket Prices:

Adults £9.00 in advance, or £8.00 for BRM Subscribers in advance Child £5.00 (5-16 years) Family £30.00 T: 0844 5814904

Swansea Railway Modellers' Group 9th Model Railway Exhibition 2018



Layouts from South Wales and beyond. Trader and society stands. Demonstrations. Wheel-chair friendly venue.

LC Swansea, Oystermouth Rd, SA1 3ST

10am-5pm 6th-7th October Visit srmg.org.uk/2018-show for the latest information SRMG

Admission: Adults £6, Concessions £5, Children £2, Under 3's Free



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Fareham & District Model Railway Club www.fareham-mrc.org.uk/railex-2018

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Parking charge of £1.50 Saturday only

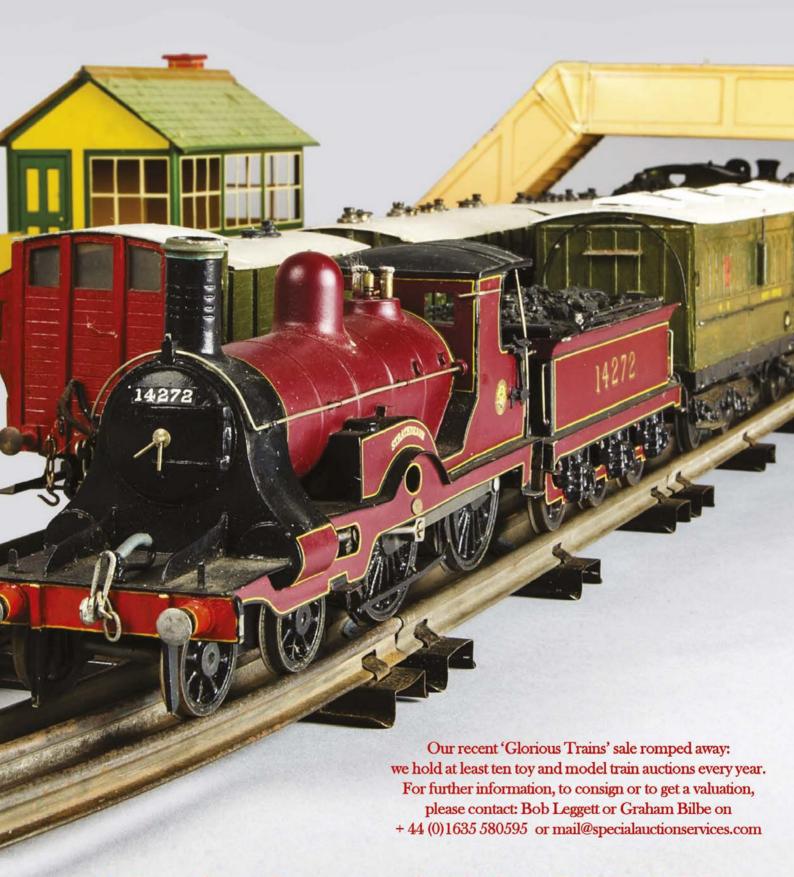
Admission charges: Adults £6, OAP £5, Children £4, Under 5s free, Family Ticket (2+3) £18

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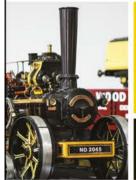


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Squires will be exhibiting at the following shows in 2018 – Diary updated as bookings are confirmed.

Sept 15/16 - AYR, Model Railway Exhibition, The Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr KA7 1JB *Modern Venue with easy access & FREE car parking *Sat 10-5/Sun 10-4
Sept 22 - Bury St. Edmunds Model Railway Club Annual Exh, Thurston Sixth, Beyton Campus, Drinkstone Rd, Beyton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9AQ. Sat 10 - 5
Sept 22/23 - HALIFAX Model Rail Exhibition, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax, HX1 1XH. Sat/Sun 10 - 5.

Sept 29/30 - WORTHING Model Railway Exhibition, Durrington High School, The Boulevard, Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1LA Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Oct 6/7 - SHILDON, M/Rail Exh Locomotion Museum, Shildon DL4 1PQ Sat/Sun 10-5pm.*Free Car Parking & Free Entry to Museum & Exhibition - Yes that's Free Entry Oct 6/7 - FOLKESTONE, Folkestone, Hythe & District Model Railway Exhibition, The Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2DZ Saturday 10-5.30, Sunday 10-5 Oct 6/7 - FAREHAM, Fareham & District Model Railway Exhibition, Fareham Leisure Centre, Park Lane, Fareham, Hampshire P016 7JU Sat 10-5.30, Sun 10-4.3 Oct 13/14 - ALDERSHOT Farnham MRC 44th Exhibition, Alderwood Leisure Centre, Tongham Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU12 4AS. Sat 10-5, Sun 10 - 4.30. Oct 20 - CHICHESTER Model Railway Exhibition, Boy's High School, Kingsham Rd,

Oct 20/21 - UCKFIELD Model Railway Exhibition, Uckfield Civic Centre, Uckfield.

TN22 14F Sat/Sun 10 - 5

Chichester, W.Sussex. P019 8AE. 10-5.

Oct 27/28 - ABERDEEN Model Railway Exhibition, Hallmark Hotel, Aberdeen Airport, Aberdeen, AB21 7DW Sat 10-5/Sun 10-4.

Oct 27/28 - LEEDS The Leeds Model Railway Society, Model Railway Exhibition, The Grammar School, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds, **LS17 8GS** Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.30. **Plenty of Free Parking**

Oct 27/28 - STOCKPORT Hazel Grove & District Model Railway Society Exhibition, Hazel Grove Recreation Centre, Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 5JX Sat 10 -5, Sun 10-4. **Enlarged Show**

Nov 3 - HIGH WYCOMBE - WYCRAIL 18 Model Railway Exhibition, Cressex Community School, Cressex Road, High Wycombe Bucks HP12 4UD. Saturday 10-5. Nov 3/4 - SPALDING Model Railway Exhibition, Springfields Event Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, PE12 6ET, Saturday 10 - 5pm, / Sunday 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Nov 3/4 - ANGMERING W.Sussex Area Group N Gauge Society "All Scales Model Railway Exhibition", The Angmering School, Greenwood Drive, Station Rd, Angmering, BN16 4HH, Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 *Now 2 Day Show - Short Walk Angmering Station - Features various scales not just N Gauge!!!**

Nov 10 - IPSWICH Model Railway Exhibition, Rushmere Hall Primary School, Lanark Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 3EJ, Saturday 10 - 5pm.

Nov 10/11 - TELFORD IPMS SCALE MODEL WORLD The Telford Exhibition Centre, St. Quentin Gate, Telford, TF3 4JH, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 FREE Entry for IPMS Members. Nov 16-18 - WAKEFIELD 57th Model Railway Exhibition, Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Road, Wakefield, WF2 8TY Fri 5.30-9. Sat 10-5.30. Sun 10-4.30 Nov 17 - PORTSMOUTH South Hants Model Railway Exhibition, Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth, Hants P03 5XT. 10-5 *Plenty of Free Parking* Nov 17/18 - WORKINGTON Model Rail Show, University of Cumbria, Energus Building, Blackwood Rd, Lillyhall Estate, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JW. Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4. **5th Year at this NEW VENUE**

Nov 24/25 - BIRMINGHAM Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, Hall 5, NEC Birmingham B40 1NT. Sat 9.15 - 6pm, Sunday 9.15 - 5pm. www.warley-mrc.org.uk Coming to Warley? - Why not try Sunday?? The show is less busy see more of the layouts AND a lot easier to get to our stand!! :-)

Been to Warley before? Didn't like it?? Found it too crowded??? Maybe you said "never again"???? Well.....

The show is now planned to have much wider aisles, larger gaps between layouts, much more seating in the refreshment areas and now with the "Kids for a Quid" Promotion - now is the time to think about revisiting Warley and see just how the show has evolved!!! Plus for this event Squires assembles the largest exhibition display stand of Modelling Tools, Materials and Accessories of any show in the country!!!!! (Probably!!!!!!) :-)

EXHIBITIONS & SHOWS IN 2019

Jan 12/13 - BOGNOR REGIS Model Railway Exhibition, Felpham Community College Felpham Way, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8EL Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4.30 **Plenty of Free Parking**

Jan 19/20 - CALNE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION Calne Leisure Centre, White Horse Way, Calne, Wilts. SN11 0SP Free parking, Sat/Sun 10-5 - **Enlarged Show for 2019**
Jan 20 GUILDFORD - Astolat M/Railway Exh, The Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Richard Meyjes Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7AD. Sunday 10-5. www.astolatmrc.co.uk
Jan 26/27 KENDAL Mod Rail Exh Leisure Centre, Burton Rd, Kendal, LA9 7HX Sat/Sun 10-5

New Tools Shop Extension Opening Soon.

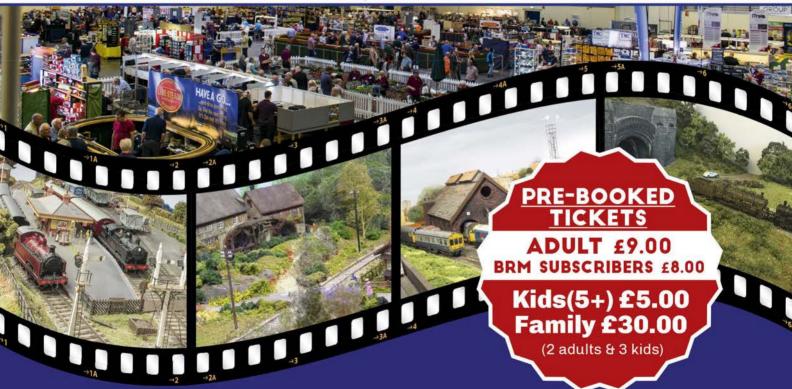
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STEAM AND THE SCRAPYARDS

We take a good look at the disposal and scrapping of the British Railways steam fleet through the 1950s and 1960s, dealing with each region separately



and lavishly illustrated. Explores

how the private scrapyards became involved in the race to eradicate the steam locomotive, and how some locomotives enjoyed a temporary reprieve whilst acting as stationary boilers before they too fell victim to the scrappers armed with their "gas axes".

A chance to recall those days of walking along the lines of scrap locomotives whilst taking their numbers for the last time and not to be missed.

STEAM'S LAMENT BRITISH RAILWAYS STANDARD PACIFICS



We take a good look at all of the British Railways Standard Pacifics, with photographs of every one of the Britannias, Clans and the Duke of Gloucester from their introduction in 1951 through to 1968. The selection of high-quality photographs takes in a wide host workings all chosen to be as evocative as possible. A real treat for those who are interested and recall Britanias. Clans and the Duke all makes for a sure favourite.

STEAM'S LAMENT BRITISH RAILWAYS STANDARD CLASS 9F 2-10-0s

Inside we examine the British Railways Class 9Fs from their earliest days in 1954 through to 1968 when the last examples headed away to the scrapyards, looking at all of the different variations

and differences within the class during their all too short working lives. A joy for those who admired the Class 9Fs.



STEAM'S LAMENT BRITISH RAILWAYS STANDARD 4-6-0s & MOGULS



Covering all five designs from their earliest days in 1951 through to 1968. A thorough exploration of members of each class at work around all of the regions on a varied selection of both passenger and freight turns often bringing us some superb exhausts, combines with views of them on shed all around the regions

too. Inside we take an opportunity to enjoy a view of each of the named Standard Arthurs individually from the 1950s into the mid-1960s. A superb volume for those who recall any of the British Railways Standard mixed traffic designs during their heyday and not to be missed.

STEAM'S LAMENT BRITISH **RAILWAYS STANDARD TANKS**

All three of the tank locomotive designs from their earliest days in 1951 through to 1967 are well covered looking at all of the variations and differences within each of the separate classes



during the 1950s and 1960s. Through a variety of archive photographs at work around all of the regions on both passenger and freight duties well captured by some of the finest cameramen of the day, all combined with views of the locomotives on shed too. The perfect record for all three of these Standard designs, be sure not to miss out.

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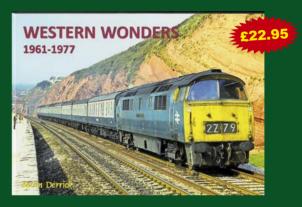
FIFTY YEARS of CLASS 50s

We take a good look at the Class 50s from their earliest days in 1968, we have colour photographs from every one of the Class 50s in service, bringing us a wide range of locomotive liveries, locations and workings that have been selected to make this a real gem for fans of the Class 50s.

CLASS 40 CELEBRATION 1958 - 1988

We take a look back through many of the variations, liveries and workings for the Whistlers with colour photographs taken from every year of their service lives from their earliest days in 1958 step by step until 1988. Definitely another fine book to add to your collection.





WESTERN WONDERS 1961 - 1977

Enjoy once again a long look at the Class 52 Westerns during their active service lives, taking in colour photographs of all seventy-four Westerns. Once again we have a wide range of locomotive liveries, locations and workings for you to make this a real treat for fans of the Westerns, another winner for your collection.

DELTIC DEVOTION



Dealing with the Class 55s from their earliest days through to 1982. Inside we have colour photographs of all twenty-two Deltics taken during their heydays from their introduction in 1961 until 1982, in addition, we cover the service life of DELTIC during the 1950s and that popular Deltic lookalike DP2. Not to be missed.

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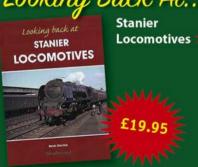
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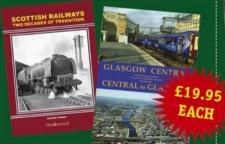


SIXTIES SPOTTING



- Sixties Spotting Days around the Midlands *
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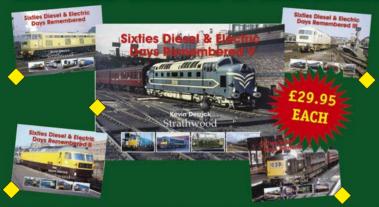


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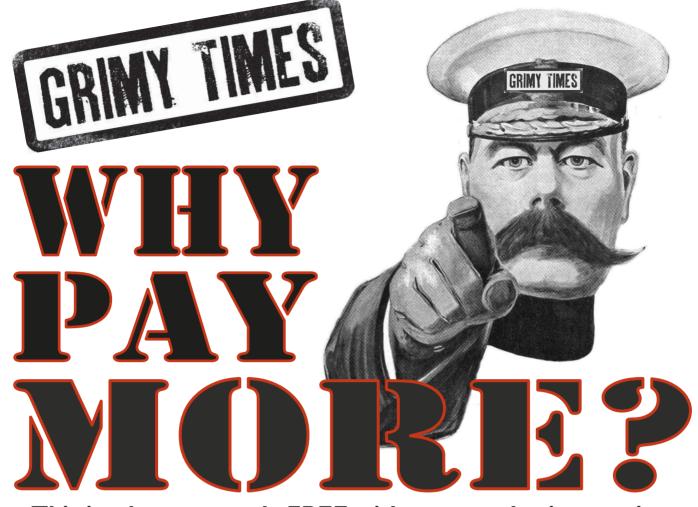
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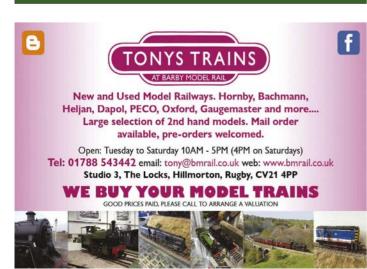
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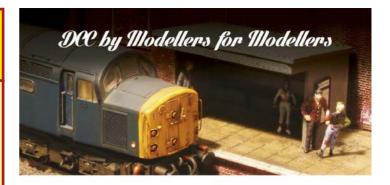


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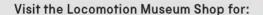


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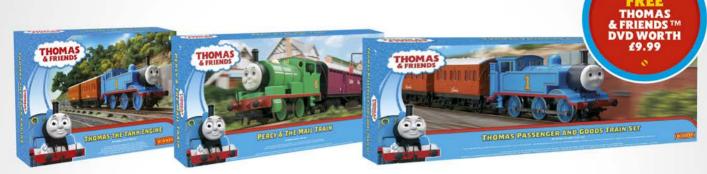
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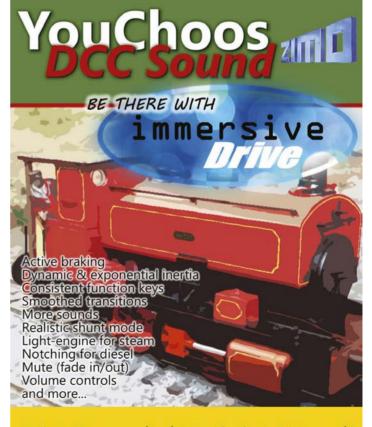
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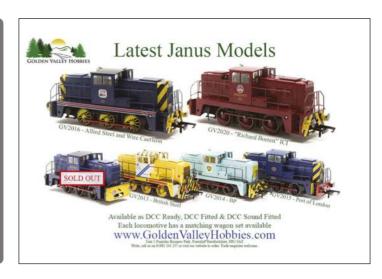




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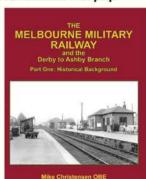
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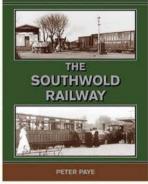
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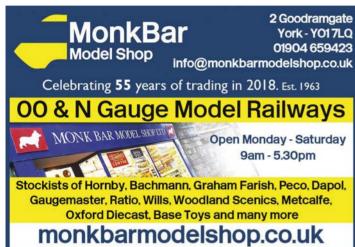
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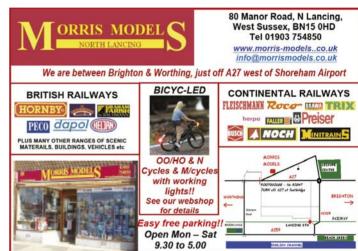
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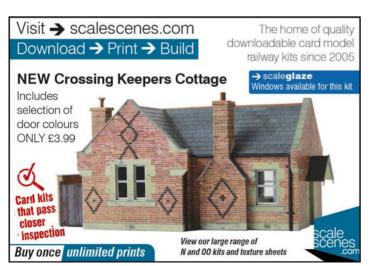




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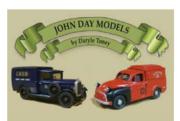
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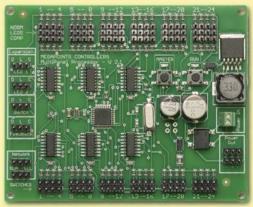
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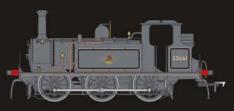






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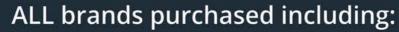
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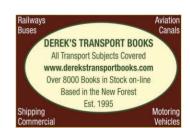
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hen I'm up to my armpits in glue and paint working on a project for **BRM** or Garden Rail, with a deadline looming and things not going as well as they should, I wonder why I do this job.

You'll be surprised to learn that it's not just because no-one else will employ me, or that my generous salary funds my exotic lifestyle (they don't and I don't have one), but that I really care about what I do. OK, model railways aren't exactly an essential service, but they give a lot of people a lot of pleasure without harming anyone else and, to my mind, that's a good thing.

What really drives me is when I meet someone who has been inspired to have a go at some modelling because of something I have written in this magazine, or carried out on our DVD.

BRM is a very practical magazine. Model railways, for us, require more than just flashing a credit card to acquire another shiny new box to join the piles of shiny boxes stashed away in a cupboard, probably hidden from the 'other half' for fear of them finding out just how much of a hit the bank account has taken.

All of us enjoy getting our hands dirty and doing something creative. We believe the real pleasure in our hobby can be expressed in three words. The words you say when you sit back and look at a model and say, "I built that."

So, the greatest thrill I get is when I meet someone at a show who waves a picture, usually on a mobile 'phone, in my face to



Phil's 009 layout, now owned by Bachmann, Owen's Bridge. Full details of the build can be found in the November/December/January 2014-15 issues of BRM

show off their latest piece of model-making.

I don't expect anyone to follow everything I do and try to repeat it exactly, but amazingly this does happen. There are at least two versions of 'Edgeworth', the GWR branch line layout I build a few years ago and which we serialised in the magazine. Both take elements of my model and then incorporate changes to suit the builders. One decided his model was to be a preserved line and so replaced the goods shed with a car park – just what would have happened in real life.

There are also copies of 'Ruston Quays'.
One N gauge modeller was hard at work
building parts for his version of my OO
layout while at The Festival of British Railway
Modelling a couple of years ago. I've never

seen his finished model, but I'd really

like to. If you are reading this, please drop me a line at BRM@warnersgroup.co.uk.

A few weeks ago, though, there was a huge surprise for me at the 'Tracks to the Trenches' narrow gauge railway event – an almost perfect copy of the WW1 009 layout 'Owen's Bridge', which was serialised in this magazine back in 2014.

The mystery builder has made an excellent job of the whole project, especially recreating the centrepiece wooden bridge. It was hardly an easy build, especially if you only have my photos to go on. They have used the same Airfix buildings and tents as I did. The weathering treatment is slightly different, but that's only paint and probably a matter of taste. Looking at the tents, I'm wondering if I should have painted mine a different colour. Sadly, the current owner bought the model on eBay and so can't furnish me with any details of the builder.

Inspired by this, I have a list of projects for **BRM** coming up in the next few months for your entertainment and edification. I try to include at least one technique that people will find useful, even if they aren't doing the same thing as me.

Also, don't forget that if you have any questions of comments on a model I've built, there is always a thread running on RMweb covering each issue, and the whole team do our best to answer any points raised. **BRM** is a truly interactive magazine, and that's how we all enjoy it.





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Class 07 Shunter	hattons.co.uk/cl07	£111	Jan 2016							
O Gauge Class 50 (Refurbished)	hattons.co.uk/hel50	£560	Apr 2017							
O Gauge Class 37/4	hattons.co.uk/hel374	£560	Nov 2017							

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ı	Hitachi IEP Class 800	hattons.co.uk/IEP800	from £239	Nov 2016							
Ì	Class 87	hattons.co.uk/hornby87	from £144	Nov 2016							
ĺ	SR 'Lord Nelson' 4-6-0	hattons.co.uk/lordnelson	from £136	Jan 2018							
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Shows the stage the project is at based on the information available to us. CAD: Computer Aided Design. 1st EP: First Engineering Prototype. TBC: Price is yet To Be Confirmed (EST): Price is estimated.

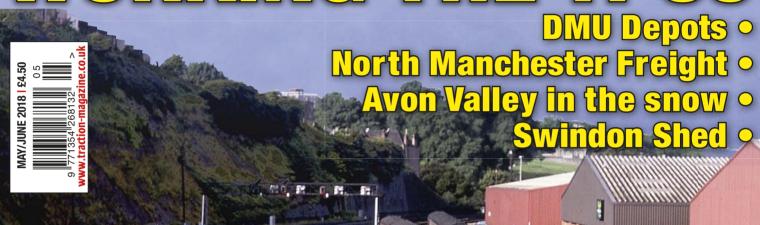
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Welcome

One of the types of traffic that has disappeared from our railways is the travelling post office train, where mail was sorted on board as the train hurtled through the night. If you ever saw the frantic activity at places like Carlisle, when the 'Up Special' TPO appeared, it's a sight you'll never forget. Mick Humphrys, being based at Euston, drove the TPOs north from the Capital and recounts his experiences driving electric locomotives on the TPOs as far as Crewe.

The humble diesel multiple unit was often overlooked by the enthusiast, who tended to be attracted to the thousands of main line diesels that BR operated. However, from the late 1950s, they became an essential part of the railway and are now viewed by many as just as interesting as locomotives. Alex Fisher's article about the DMU depots of British Rail attempts to give this aspect of the railway its proper prominence.

Another feature of railway operation that has gone is the local freight train. David Ratcliffe looks at north Manchester in the dying days of such trains.

Hopefully, by the time this issue appears, the chances of disruptive snow will have diminished, so perhaps it's time to look at one of those days when

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the chance to photograph the railways in the 'white stuff' occurred. In December 1978, Steve Randall had the opportunity to photograph trains near Bradford upon Avon and was surprised by the variety of traffic.

In another article set in Wiltshire, David McPherson returns with the second part of his article about Swindon Shed in the nineteen sixties. Moving a little further west, Gavin Morrison's photographs of that great railway station, Bristol Temple Meads, take us back to the days of locomotive hauled trains in the 1980s and 1990s.

In our European section, Michael Watkins continues his series of articles about the electric locomotives of the Swiss railways. This

time he looks at some of the real giants of the railway, including the articulated 'Crocodiles' which had a life in traffic of over 60 years!

In TRACTION MODELLING, James Smith describes how he took a 4mm scale model of a 'Clayton' and rebuilt it to represent the prototype DHP1, or 'Super Clayton'. This issue's featured layout is a model of an imaginary main line suburban station at Earl's Court in London built by Terry Tew.



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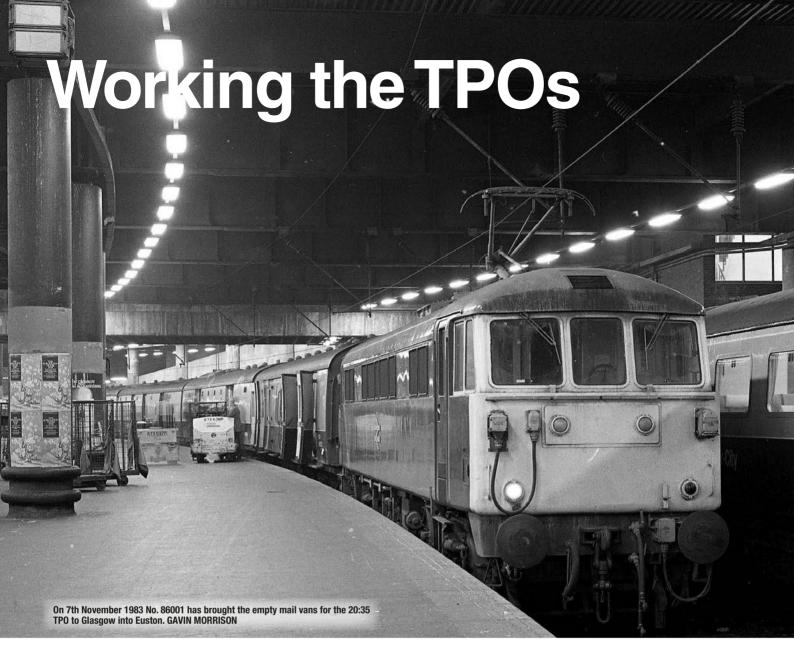
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Mick Humphrys writes that, "It is with a sense of regret that once again my article details workings that are long gone from the railway network. This time it is the Travelling Post Office (TPO) services that I was involved in from 1979, at the start of my railway career as a driver's assistant (DA) or secondman at Stonebridge Park, until 1995 when I was a driver at Euston and sectorisation meant that the work was lost to my depot."

y first TPO working was what we called 'turning the postals'. 1M44 had departed Glasgow at 19:30, and was scheduled to arrive at Euston at 03:57 the following morning. It was required to be turned after arrival and before its departure back to Scotland the following evening. This was to facilitate loading and unloading at intermediate stations en route as the large sliding doors were fitted on only one side of each vehicle. Turning the formation simply meant that the doors were on the required platform side on both the up and then down journey.

Two Class 25 locomotives took care of this manoeuvre, one at each end of the formation, running via the North London Line (see TRACTION 235 for further details). Moving to Euston as a drivers assistant in

1982, I was involved further with 1M44, the much more exciting mainline working from Euston to Crewe. With a book on time of 20:05, Turn 41 was termed the postals with the down working being 1S09, the 20:35 TPO to Glasgow via the West Midlands. I worked this vacuum brake service on 14th September 1982 and, as the booked Euston driver had reported in sick, cover was provided by one of my former Stonebridge drivers, Frank Toner.

86212 provided the power and the long night started with a stop at Watford Junction with the postmen and 'British Railway Utility Trolleys' or BRUTEs already in position as we drew in to the platform. Bletchley was the next calling point followed by Rugby, Coventry and then the black hole of Birmingham New Street.

All stations stops resulted in a huge amount of activity by the platform postal workers, unloading sorted mail, and loading mail to be sorted by the postmen on board as we speeded down the line. The postmen on the TPO were the crème de la crème of the Royal Mail, being graded as Postman Higher Grade (PHG) and worked very quickly with a huge degree of accuracy though the night on these fast moving expresses.

After Wolverhampton the run was booked non-stop to Crewe. However, the signalman at Stafford No. 4 box had other ideas with the junction signal at Stafford South Junction at danger causing Frank to make a heavy brake application as the poorly sighted signal came into view. As is so often the case, once at a stand the signal cleared to a green with the number 4 junction indicator (row of five



white lights set at 45 degrees to the right) commonly known as a 'feather' routing us onto the fast line, which was our booked route to Crewe. With a generous 24 minutes, including 4 minutes recovery time, arrival into Crewe platform 3 (now platform 11) was due at 23:38. The postal workers sprang into action with 22 minutes allowed for the huge amount of loading and unloading.

The requirement for a secondman rostered to this turn became apparent as the return working was the up TPO 1M44. This was due to depart Crewe platform 4 at 00:22, which meant the required physical needs break (PNB) break was short. Under the manning agreements present at the time, a secondman was required should a shift be in excess of 8hrs and/or the driver had insufficient time for a PNB. 86224 was at the head of 1M44 and working south via Birmingham New Street, by the time Bletchley and Watford Junction were reached the postal workers were no doubt keen to reach their beds as indeed I was. I must admit that, on more than one occasion, my driver allowed me to depart at Watford Junction, although this meant a 4 mile walk home to Carpenters Park. Journeys end was the buffer stops of platform 2 at the London

terminus with, it seemed, the postal staff off the train before our wheels stopped rolling. I remember being impressed at how quickly 1M44 was unloaded with the hectic scene returning to peace and quiet in a matter of minutes.

First Crewe Job

Transferring back to Stonebridge Park for a driver's position, and qualifying as such in August 1985, my TPO workings were once again limited to their turning, although now with Class 31s as the motive power. Once back as a driver in February 1990 at Euston, I commenced a period of route learning to extend my route knowledge (limited whilst at Stonebridge to Bletchley) to Crewe via both Trent Valley main lines and the West Midlands routes. My first Crewe job as a driver would be over a year later on Friday the 26th April 1991.

Booking on at 20:30 the down working was 1N20, the 21:05 service to Blackpool with 87025 providing the motive power for my maiden voyage. My log shows a 10 minute wait at Stafford for a late running connection, finally arriving into Crewe 12 minutes late at 23:20. My return working was once again 1M44, by now air braked, and departing from the same platform but after the Crewe remodelling in 1985 was now called platform 6. With 86244 in charge all went according to plan until the Bletchley stop when, keen to provide a smooth stop for the postal workers, I stopped short and had to draw forward. On my next working of 1M44 on the summer morning of the 6th July 1991 with 86430, I avoided the Bletchley stop as I was issued a 'Special Stop Order' at Crewe to call at Milton Keynes instead. The cause of this was due to the fast line platforms being blocked at Bletchley and the slow line platforms there being too short to accommodate the TPO.

First Down Road TPO

With a large volume of night work as a junior driver at Euston, TPOs were regular workings and it was on the 17th October 1991 that I worked 1S24, my first down road TPO, the 22:55 departure of the second TPO service of the evening to Glasgow. The book on time of 21:55 allowed for preparation of my engine 90017 and to attach the locomotive to the postals on platform 2.

The prevailing weather conditions of driving rain, strong winds, and the first heavy leaf fall of the season caused very poor rail conditions, which resulted in a very sedate run to the first loading stop of Watford Junction. This was compounded by the Class 90s habit of wheel slipping whenever it sighted a cloud on the horizon! Departing Watford already 3 minutes late, I managed to reach around 70 mph exiting Watford Tunnel, aided by the 1 mile and 47 yards of relative dry and uncontaminated rail conditions in the tunnel. The 1 in 335 gradient up to Tring soon proved too much for the '90' with speed slowing right back to 45mph.

I was relieved to reach the end of the

large cutting with gravity now on my side and speed slowly increasing, despite the continuous scream from the wheels as they slipped their way forward. With another 9 minutes lost by the time I reached Rugby, I realised that I needn't have tried so hard as due to a freightliner waiting for a driver and occupying platform 1, our train had to stand waiting at signal RY56 for a further 6 minutes, finally arriving at 00:26. I departed 10 minutes later at 00:36, by now 18mins late. With better weather and therefore rail conditions I drew into platform 11 at Crewe at 01:30 and with recovery time allowances, just 12 minutes late. The weather further north played another part that night with very strong winds and speed limits imposed. This resulted in a longer break waiting for my return working 1A73 which ran in at 03:15, around an hour late. 87008 'City Of Liverpool' made a better job of holding her feet taking me safely to Euston arriving at 05:31.

Rough Riding Complaints

I had the pleasure of working another week of nights just 3 weeks later, on the night of 7th November, and attached sister locomotive 90018 onto 1S24. Due to complaints about rough riding from the onboard PHGs working the TPOs, a Post Office manager and a Preston based traction inspector were waiting at the country end of 1S24. (Note: - Country and London end are the terms used to identify the carbons of electric traction pantographs. With most pantographs consisting of 2 rows of carbons, London end was the edge nearest the buffer stops at Euston. This assisted in the identification of a fault or damage to the pantograph carbons)

With my guests joining me on the footplate, we departed 2 minutes late and, as on the 17th October, a night of appalling weather and very poor rail conditions was encountered. After struggling up the 1 in 50 down departure line, 90018 found some grip whilst accelerating through Primrose Hill Tunnel. Once exited the tunnel, however, she proved her class worth in such conditions with her wheels and traction motors taking part in an aerobics class! Watford Junction was finally reached at 23:19 with me once again stopping not to the postmen's liking and I was requested by the platform chargeman to move forward a coach length running the loco just off the end of the platform.

The exercise regarding rough riding proved somewhat fruitless as line speed was seldom achieved. The Post Office manager on board commented, with a smile on his face, that the PHG on board would be more than happy with the slow sedate progress as this gave them longer and therefore allowed for a more leisurely pace to sort the mail. At Rugby the Post Office manager had seen enough and left the footplate and joined his colleagues in the train, no doubt he helped to sort the mail. The conditions again improved and with a slightly faster run I finally arrived at Crewe at 01:50, 32mins late.



Wrong Platform

On the 10th January 1992 the postmen on board 1S24 had once more cause to complain with my stopping skill at Watford Junction, although this time I didn't stop short but arrived at the wrong platform! Departing Euston with 90019 and with speed increasing up to 90mph I was somewhat frustrated to receive cautionary signals approaching Kensal Green Tunnel, just 4 miles north of Euston. With the junction signal at West London junction displaying a route four junction indicator I was routed onto the down slow line. The reason for the diversion became apparent when I sighted a failed freightliner on the down fast at Wembley. I was, at the time, unconcerned

that I was not routed back onto the fast line at Harrow North Junction (this junction is no longer present) although this lack of concern was soon challenged when drawing into platform 8 on the down Slow at Watford Junction.

Here I observed the bemused expressions on the faces of the postal workers standing patiently on the down fast platform 6. It should go without saying that as the postal workers had previously proved themselves reluctant to move their barrows one coach length there was no way on earth that they would move from one platform to another. With the efficiency of old, the signalman in Watford signal box was 'on the ball', as the Watford based train crew supervisor

had been informed and was waiting armed with a radio as I pulled up to the end of the platform. A plan of action was agreed and with the supervisor joining me on the footplate and another member of staff boarding on the rearmost vehicle again equipped with a radio, I shunted the train from platform 8 to 6 via the North Junction. The radios enabled contact between the three parties; the supervisor with me on the loco, the chargeman at the rear and Watford signal box. This greatly assisted in the smooth, safe, and indeed speed of the move, especially the wrong direction propelling movement on the down fast, into platform 6. Once re-platformed, the postal workers sprang once more into action and the



loading duties were very quickly completed, I departed Watford at 23:41, only 22 minutes late. Diverted via Northampton arrival into Crewe was at 01:40, still 22 minutes late!

Pea Soup

In my article 'sleeper stories' in TRACTION 224, I wrote that on the 23rd of December 1992 I worked 'The Royal Highlander', the 21.05 London Euston to Inverness as far as Crewe; the return working was once more 1M44. After a short break at Crewe, I departed with the TPO on board 86243 at 00:22. The night in question was an extremely foggy night with a thick pea soup of freezing fog which had been building over a number of days and nights.

The temperature when I passed the neon temperature indicator on the Ovaltine factory at Kings Langley showed -8! After a long night peering into this freezing gloom I arrived at the last signal before Euston, EN64. I was pleased with myself that, despite the conditions, I had made it on time, only to be held due to a point's failure for 18 minutes, finally arriving into platform 2 at 03:38!

1S06 and 1M44

Mainline work as a junior driver at Euston continued with Wolverhampton jobs when on day turns and Crewe, postal or sleeper workings at night. The December diagram alterations of 1993 saw the TPO 1S06 (20:35 TPO to Glasgow formerly 1S09) once more manned by Euston men after being covered by Preston drivers for a number of years. The diagram T253 also combined the down TPO working once more with the up working, 1M44.

1S06 took the much faster Trent Valley line via Nuneaton to Crewe, enabling an arrival time of 22:45. It was on the 11th February the following year that I booked on at 19:35. After preparing and attaching 86236 to 1S06 I worked this to Crewe. By this time the return working 1M44, which had departed Glasgow at 19:15, upon arrival at 23:31 divided into two portions at Crewe, usually in platform 1. The front portion departed at 23:45 and ran forward as 1M44 via Birmingham to Coventry where it terminated with the mail unloaded on to road vehicles. The postal workers also de-trained and the stock was worked forward to London as 5A44. The rear portion started at Crewe as 1A93 and ran via the Trent Valley line to London calling at Rugby, Bletchley, and Watford Junction.

86238 was my loco for 1M44 on the return; sadly, by this time, the right hand seat on the engine remained unoccupied. A right time arrival at Coventry at 01:15 and another impressive unloading exercise saw me depart 8 minutes early at 01:22. Running non-stop as an ECS enabled a fast run and on this occasion I was pleased to arrive at Euston at 02:31, 25 minutes early.

Brake drag on 1S06

I didn't have to wait too long to once more be on 1S06 as two weeks later on the 24th I attached 86401 on to the stock on platform 2 at Euston. I was slightly concerned that one of the Euston rolling stock inspectors was waiting at the north end and greeted me with the explanation that the train had brake problems on the short ECS run from Wembley carriage sidings and further investigation was required. He went off to carry out his examination of the train, leaving me to dwell on the realisation that this was already looking like it might turn into a long night. Two of my driver colleagues at Euston (one of whom was the instructor driver the late Alan Hall) who both resided at Bletchley, also joined me for a perceived fast lift home.

On his return the inspector explained that

he had found a brake fault on one vehicle, No. 92232, and therefore had isolated its brake. Also the main reservoir pipe was to be isolated from the locomotive and the train was to run single pipe. (Single piped means that the air supply for the vehicles brake system is supplied via the brake pipe only). After a brake continuity test and overcharge our departure was only delayed by 10 minutes, much to the relief of my two guests.

The 'brake continuity test' is carried out by the driver opening his brake valve to the running position and charging the brake pipe up to 72.5psi. The brake valve is then moved swiftly round to a shut down position 'trapping' at least 60psi in the brake pipe. At the opposite end of the train on the last vehicle, a brake valve or brake cock attached to the end of the brake pipe is opened and the pressure trapped in the pipe is vented. This reduction to zero pressure is observed by the driver who then returns his brake valve to 'running', recharging the brake pipe once again to 72.5psi. This proves that the brake pipe is continuous throughout the length of the train. It is very necessary for correct brake operation as the basic principle of air brake operation is that as the brake pipe pressure is reduced a piece of equipment called a distributor on each vehicle reacts to this reduction and allows a further air supply to flow to the vehicle's brake cylinders. which in turn operate brake rigging attached to the brake blocks adjacent to each wheel.

After departure the sense of well-being was not to last as,, despite full power applied 86401 just didn't seem to be accelerating as much as she should have. This was confirmed as when shutting off power for the neutral section at Headstone Lane a marked reduction in speed was noted, despite me carrying out another 'brake overcharge'. A brake overcharge is carried out every time a locomotive is attached to a train as brake pipe pressure can vary slightly between locomotives up to the nominal 72.5 psi. As the brake pipe is charged via the locomotive's brake valve, in use a slight difference in pressure could result in problems. To prevent any problems occurring, for example 'dragging brakes', a brake overcharge is performed. This is achieved on a Class 86 by the driver holding the brake valve in use in the release position for 60 seconds. The brake pipe is then charged up to around 78.5 psi, over charging in turn the disturber on each vehicle. The brake pipe then slowly, up to 4 minutes, bleeds the air down to the nominal 72.5psi of that brake valve in use, ensuring the brakes are fully released. Should a driver make a brake application during the 4 minute bleed down time this overcharge procedure must be repeated. The overcharge procedure is also the first course of action if dragging brakes are suspected, hence my action on that night.

My decision to stop out of course at Watford Junction was confirmed by the fact that I was brought to a stand by a red signal at the end of the down fast platform.



On contacting the signalman I was informed that sparks had been observed from a vehicle near the rear of my train by a traction inspector travelling aboard a passing freightliner on the up slow. Walking back to the rear of the train accompanied by Alan, who by now must have been wishing that he had taken a different ride home, we could smell evidence of brake drag before reaching the rear vehicles. The brakes were in fact found to be on two vehicles. No. 92902 the 4th from the rear and No. 92346 the rearmost. With Alan's help and a block taken on the Up Fast we 'pulled the strings' on both vehicles ('pulled the strings' refers to the action of releasing the air from the control side of the distributor fitted to each vehicle, thus releasing the brakes).

This did release the brakes and with our colleague on the locomotive carrying out several static brake applications, the brakes were observed applying and releasing correctly. I should add that the postal workers on board remained unseen and indeed unheard, no doubt busy sorting letters. Departing from Watford at 21:20, things moved a lot more smoothly and I ran into the first booked stop, Bletchley, at 21:45. Alan and friend made a quick exit whilst I learnt that the powers that be had determined that the train required examination by a carriage and wagon inspector.

The chap was waiting as I came to a stand, armed with a tool bag containing little more than a ball point hammer and a rather fed

up attitude as his day was up at 22:00. Nevertheless he walked back to examine the two troublesome vehicles and promptly 'red-carded' No. 92346. Being 'red-carded' referred to the placement of a red label attached to a vehicle endorsed with the text 'Not to Go' when a repair was deemed required before any further movement. Unfortunately the dragging brake and resultant heat had caused the tyre on one pair of the wheels on No. 92346 to 'shift'. hence its failure. This movement was identified by white marks painted on both the wheel body and the tyre. Should the paint marks be out of line, movement had indeed occurred.

In order to cause the minimum of delay it was permitted to detach the vehicle on the down fast after transferring both postmen and letters. The plan then was to move it off the mainline with a shunt loco after I finally departed at 22:42, 1 hour and 28 minutes late. The rest of the journey was uneventful and I arrived at Crewe at 00:10 and, after observing my return working 1M44 heading south without me, I knew a ride back 'on the cushions' would be in order. A rather uncomfortable cushion turned out to be the rear cab of the loco working 1A93 which, for some reason I cannot recall, had not departed Crewe right time and which, by the skin of my teeth, I managed to catch.

The end

My turns on 1S06 and 1M44 continued

throughout 1994 with my last working being on 4th of November 1994. 86419 provided the power on the down train, with 86430 on the up, both in the red Rail Express System (RES) livery. By the 21st November most of postal work was lost to Euston depot, being transferred to the RES allocated train crew based at Wembley which had been formed as a prelude to privatisation in April 1994. At the end of 1994, after nearly six years, I finally moved out of the bottom link 4 at Euston into link 3B and started learning the road to Preston. The remaining very limited RES work at Euston was lost by July 1995 with the newly built RES Rail Net facility at Wembley being completed the following year. So yet another chapter of my railway workings came to an end, along with the Motorail services, a massive reduction in sleeper trains from the capital to the North, and the loss of all target work. With numerous rumours circulating regarding the closure of Wembley Intercity depot, things were looking grim for Euston. There was, indeed, a driver severance package which several men took advantage off. Wembley, however, did remain open and by 1997 with Virgin Trains West Coast created and expanding with the cross country work out of Paddington coming to the depot, things started to look up once more.

This article was completed with information from both my diaries (kept from 1980 to present day) and my logbook which I kept from 1990 to 1996 detailing my mainline driving turns at Euston.

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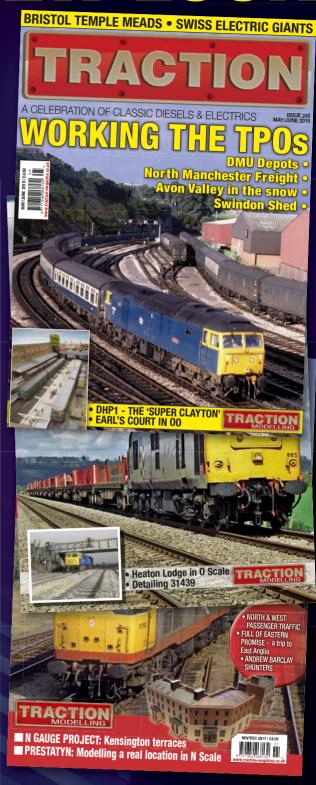
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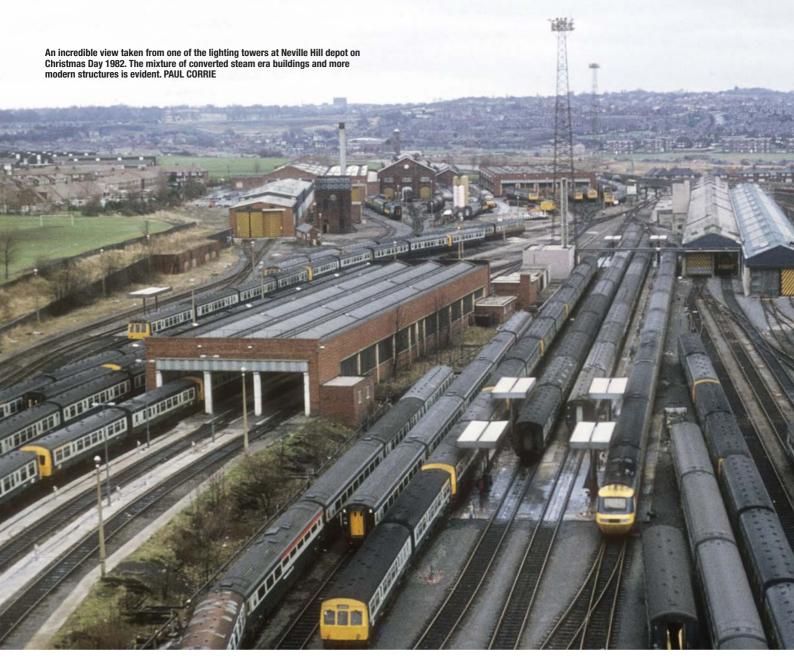
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The DMU Depots of British Rail

Love them or loath them, diesel multiple units have been with us since the days of the Great Western Railway and, from the 1950s onwards, they've gone on to dominate the UK's railways. Alex Fisher looks at how BR maintained its extensive fleet.

ne of my earliest railway memories is of my father calling the DMUs that passed our house 'bug boxes'. For the number crunching railway enthusiast, however, large diesel depots such as Toton, Cardiff Canton and Tinsley were always more interesting than their DMU depot counterparts. Space prevents a comprehensive review of BR's DMU depot policy and works, but this article hopes to give an overview of these unloved environs

which have serviced and maintained DMUs for over 60 years.

In many parts of the country DMUs were a revelation and they gave BR substantial increases in patronage. For example on the London Midland Region (LMR), passenger numbers were up 371,000 across the region from 1956 to 1957 on the services where they had been introduced. While facilities to maintain the earliest diesel locomotives often saw nothing more sophisticated than

a diesel fuel tank and, if they were lucky, the partitioning off of a couple of roads in a steam shed, the Modernisation Plan's DMUs arguably fared far better with many new DMU depots opening.

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region (ER) was by far the most progressive and enthusiastic when it came to building new DMU and diesel depots. The classic ER designed Lincoln depot opened





Ipswich DMU depot on May 2nd 1971. RAILPHOTOPRINTS - GORDON EDGAR

strengthening jobs for peak hour services, the other end of the spectrum saw former steam sheds such as Dereham which closed to steam as early as September 1955 but continued to stable DMUs until September 1968 with no alterations. Ultimately however, the ER's new depots had given them a solid base from which local steam workings were phased out in a manner which put the ER at the forefront of dieselisation.

North Eastern Region

The North Eastern Region (NER) was just as enthusiastic about new DMUs but were a little slower in building new depots. They received their first units in 1954 and were based at Hammerton Street, Bradford. Stage-by-stage conversion and modernisation and the introduction of more units meant that there were 85 cars based

there by 1961 as steam was eradicated fairly early.

By mid 1957 Cravens and Metropolitan-Camell units had come to the former Hull and Barnsley Railway's Springhead Depot. The Hull area was dieselised for the winter 1957 timetable and the units soon moved to the purpose built Hull Botanic Gardens depot.

On September 17th 1957 the NER opened Darlington Depot and its design was described by some as a "converted steam shed from scratch" as its design was akin to a steam depot. It was home to a fleet of 13 four-car Metro-Cammell units. Ultimately 130 cars were to be based there with additional stabling at Middleton-in-Teesdale, Saltburn, West Auckland and Middlesbrough.

DMUs were also stabled and maintained in the ex LNER's Gosforth Car Shed and

in 1956 and its DMUs soon covered a wide area from Sheffield to the East Coast. They were maintained in a well equipped, modern airy building light years away from the grot and filth of the steam sheds that most diesels were subjected to.

The former Woodhead electric loco depot at Darnall was also converted to diesels and DMU servicing when it was re-opened in April 1959. Derby-built Class 114 units received attention there and it was envisaged that up to 60 units would be based at Darnall. An October 3rd 1960 decision to dieselise the Sheffield Division meant that Darnall shed received an ever increasing number of diesel locos which ultimately pushed DMU servicing out and the Class 114s were transferred to Lincoln from April 28th 1962.

In 1958 the ER opened its new Stratford depot and, while it was used for the modernisation mainline diesel locos, it was actually designed as a purpose built DMU depot. Finally while Norwich saw a new depot which was eventually home to 38 twin-units covering 24 train workings and six

'Calder Valley' Class 110 unit, Nos. 52083, 59703 and 51814, is seen in the roofless depot at Bradford Hammerton Street on 10th November 1979. RAILPHOTOPRINTS - GORDON EDGAR





were worked by drivers from Heaton and Gateshead. Notably the shed even retained a turntable long after steam, for the turning of individual DMU cars. 1960 saw the opening of Neville Hill and it soon built up a large allocation with work being undertaken upon 250 diesel cars while steam was extradited to the two remaining roundhouse sections of the old shed. Gateshead had seen some quite comprehensive rebuilding work in the 1950s with only a footnote of "suitable for later conversion" with conversion work being completed during 1964.

The Region's greatest folly was, of course, Thornaby. It was Britain's last new steam shed and although supposedly built for easy conversion to diesels, it was ultimately a poor substitute for a purpose built diesel depot, as were many of the NER's conversions which were compromises between the expense of new builds and the inadequacies of the old.

London Midland Region

On the London Midland Region (LMR) there was a real mixture of fortunes for its DMUs. At Toton, the mighty freight facility of the Midlands, DMUs initially shared the filthy conditions of the 'Garratt Road' which lay along the side of two of its roundhouses, this road being the only one long enough for inspecting DMUs before better facilities were opened at Derby's Etches Park. Conversely the 270ft by 141ft wide brand new Crewe

Diesel depot welcomed DMUs in early 1958. The shed was technically a steam conversion, having been originally designed as a super centre for the region's steam fleet.

Notable new build depots on the LMR included: the three road 454ft building at Stoke which was equipped for the heavy maintenance and could service and clean up to 38 sets a day, the 240ft two road depot at Buxton which could handle up to nine three-car sets and opened in 1957. A shortcoming of both, however, were their lightweight supports which, officially at least, prohibited diesel locos from using them.

Cricklewood, however, was the LMR's zenith in combined DMU and loco maintenance design. It opened in 1961 and the large three section depot of four, three and three roads respectively and was designed to service and maintain 75 railcars and 150 main line locomotives.

Many other depots however, such as Workington, Barrow, Bury and Accrington, saw DMUs with the most minimal of alterations, many of which soldiered on for a decade or more. Accrington, for example was closed to steam in March 1961 but continued as a DMU depot until it closed

Park Royal DMU No. M56153 is stored outside Chester depot on 20th June 1976. DAVE HIGSON





By this date Southall depot was no longer maintaining DMUs but the building and fuelling point can be seen as 50046 heads past with a westbound express on the 18th March 1989. JOSEPH PORTER - IVAN STEWART COLLECTION

completely in October 1972. One oddity though was the former steam shed at Ryecroft near Walsall. In 1956/7 it was reroofed and had work done to make one of the first DMU depots in the country but just ten years later, its usefulness had elapsed thanks to the Beeching cuts and the depot closed in 1967.

Western Region

Despite facilities still being built up, DMUs had taken over large parts of the Western Region (WR) by 1958. Initial units were based at Barry while Cardiff Cathays was upgraded as a stop gap before the DMUs were eventually migrated to Cardiff Canton. The

depot gained a large fleet of DMUs for use on the Cardiff Valley lines and, while the former carriage building didn't have raised rails, the floor either side and between the tracks was lowered to facilitate better and easier access to the DMUs under frames. Maintenance was also undertaken in the purpose built two road DMU shed whilst outside a semi covered fuelling canopy allowed the fuelling of several DMUs at once.

Reading enjoyed a new three road DMU depot building in 1961 and it had a 150ft two road shed added to the side for locomotives in 1964. This was further extended in the 1980s to give a five road shed. It was a good example of a mixed traffic depot servicing

and maintaining diesel locos, DMUs and Civil Engineers track machinery.

In the Bristol area Barton Hill had an inspection pit built for DMUs in 1958 and at Bristol St Phillips Marsh Junction DMU facilities were quite comprehensive from early on. Two roads gained a new semi covered fuelling facility long enough for 12 cars and a new four-road DMU depot was opened on September 23rd 1959. The roads were built on 2ft 6in high concrete plinths with embedded fluorescent tube lighting along each side. The shed was closed to steam in June 1964 but continued to service and maintain locomotives and DMUs. In 1965 its DMU allocation stood at 32 crosscountry, 12 suburban, four single cars and one Pullman set. The depot ceased DMU maintenance on May 18th 1970 when the work was transferred to Bristol Bath Road. CCE plant was then maintained at the depot, but DMUs were still fuelled at Marsh Junction. Bath Road's DMU allocation in July 1980 was two Class 101/2 3-car sets, nine Class 118/8 3-car sets, thirteen Class 102 3-car sets and two Class 121 single cars.

While Newton Abbot concentrated on locomotive maintenance, Class 120 DMU units were initially serviced at Exmouth Junction shed until the depot was closed in March 1967. Ultimately the former steam shed at Exeter St Davids became the main stabling point for the DMUs used on the Barnstable, Exmouth and Paignton branches.

After Plymouth Laira was completely rebuilt between 1960 and 1961; it became the principle locomotive depot of the West of England and gained a DMU contingent alongside a sizeable loco allocation. Further to the west, 3-car BRCW (later Class 118) DMUs were at Truro depot by 1959, it closed to steam in March 1962 and the shed continued until closure in October 1965.

The maintenance of DMUs in the Bristol area was undertaken at Bath Road depot by the time this photograph was taken on the 17th October 1976. Visible in the middle, between all the main line locomotives, is a Derby built unit. DAVE HIGSON



The DMU depot furthest to the west was, of course, Penzance which closed to steam a month earlier in September 1962 and saw local DMUs and locomotive servicing. After the opening of the new HST depot at Long Rock, DMU servicing was transferred to the new depot

The former steam shed at Southall, closed to steam in January 1966, was home to DMUs in it eight road through shed until its closure as a servicing point in October 1986. DMUs then took advantage of the WR's new HST shed at Old Oak Common which had opened in September 1976.

In 1979 Exeter St Davids finally received some covered accommodation to replace the Heath Robinson affair which existed before.

Scottish Region

On the Scottish Region (ScR) one of its earliest DMU depots was at the former Leith Central station which found further use after closure to passengers as a stabling and minor servicing point for DMUs through to 1972.

Ardrossan and Dundee had received a DMU contingent by the early 1960s but few changes were made to the actual structure of the depot, although rails were slightly raised to facilitate better access to DMU undersides

When the large steam depot at Eastfield was completely rebuilt as a diesel depot,

it had roads dedicated to DMUs which could take a three car unit for underframe inspection and repair. Similarly, Ayr, Corkerhill, Hamilton and Haymarket were good examples of depots which received new purpose built buildings.

As part of ScR's initiative to concentrate their DMU maintenance upon an ever smaller number of depots, the depots at Dundee and Hamilton had closed by mid 1982. In contrast, the early 1980s saw them open a new, local authority funded, depot for DMUs at Corkerhill in Glasgow. ScotRail's DMU depots with an allocation as at January 1st 1985 were: Eastfield – 20 sets, Haymarket 25 sets and Ayr with 41 sets.

Southern Region

With its dense electrified network, the Southern made great use of EMUs and where electrification couldn't be justified, it tended to go for DEMUs over the more common DMU. As this article is concerned mainly with diesel mechanical multiple units, the Southern's Diesel Electric Multiple Unit depots aren't covered here and nor are its EMU depots.

Maintenance in the Early Years

The ability to start up a DMU and have it ready for traffic in a matter of minutes was the death knell of the small branchline

steam depot. Almost universally, whenever and wherever a line was dieselised, it usually meant the end of the, often single track, small shed and train crew contingent as BR concentrated its DMU maintenance at new and better equipped depots. For example, the closure of Alston shed in September 1959 upon the introduction of a Metro-Cammell DMU service, was just one example of the dozens that happened throughout the country as BR reduced many of its branch lines to 'basic railways' with just a single line from a mainline junction worked on the 'One Train Working' principle, which was arguably the saviour of many a branch line.

Despite BR's attempts to build suitable DMU depots, the BTC's statistics for March 24th 1957 showed that 60, or 9.7% of BR's 618 DMU vehicles were out of action and a year later, 166 or 10.3% of its 1,650 cars were out of service, a not exactly encouraging picture.

Come the 1970s and with 75% of BR's DMUs having been introduced between 1957 and 1960 they were approaching their midlife and were in dire need of heavy overhauls in order to extend their working lives into the mid 1980s. At this time many classes of DMU were maintained under a schedule based on periods of 1,500 miles running. A thorough inspection took place every 3,000 miles through to a major overhaul at 30-

Single car No.55015 is outside Eastfield depot in Glasgow on the 18th August 1983. It was being used by the British Transport Police to combat vandalism. GAVIN MORRISON





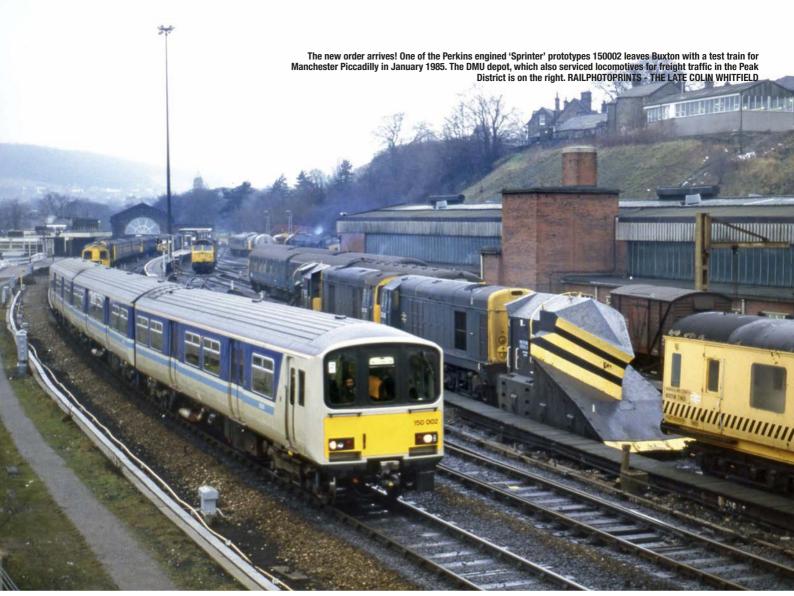


36,000 miles. At each of those intervals the DMU vehicle would be out of service while the requisite work was undertaken. In an effort to speed up the vehicle's down time, BR was keen to restrict the amount of repair work actually undertaken at depot level with, instead, spare reconditioned major parts being fitted while the defective part was dispatched for repair at a region's principal diesel works such as Stratford or Derby. Thus at Norwich, for example, two spare engines and gear boxes were held to facilitate swift changes of defective equipment, the diesel power plant lending itself to this method of component exchange so much more readily than the steam locomotive.

Maintaining the Next Generation

In the late 1970s, BR had begun planning for the replacement of its first generation DMUs and two distinct proposals developed. The Class 210 diesel-electric design with an above floor engine to match the performance and reliability set by the Southern Region's DEMUs. The alternative was the low cost 'Railbus', utilising standard Leyland bus components. While the Class 210 proved too expensive, the railbus saw Class 141s come to West Yorkshire, Class 142s to Greater Manchester and elsewhere and later Class 143s and 144s to Tynside and West Yorkshire.

What was ultimately needed, however, was a DMU midway between the '210' and the railbus – a second generation of the classic DMU. The contenders were the BREL Class 150 and the Metro-Cammell Class 151, with BREL's Class 150 being the preferred



with BREL's Class 150 being the preferred choice. The high density seating of the Class 150s meant that two vehicles could replace three Class 120 low density vehicles and at Derby Etches Park, Class 150/1 units covered 43 diagrams, 22 for the lines east of Crewe and 21 for those to the west. Each set was programmed to cover roughly 105,000 miles annually, almost double that of the first generation DMUs. With larger fuel tanks giving a range of 1,000 miles between refuelling, coupled with greater reliability, visits to maintenance facilities were reduced from two or three times a week to fortnightly. Fuelling and service checks were undertaken every 1,500 miles and took roughly three hours. An A exam was undertaken every 3,000 miles while a B exam lasted seven and a half hours and was carried out every 15,000 miles.

In order to relieve pressure upon Chester depot, Etches Park also undertook A exams on the first generation DMUs used on the services in Lincolnshire. Where the first generation DMUs averaged 70-75% availability, the new DMUs were required to operate at 85%. In fact 90% availability soon became the accepted norm and there were even days when the Class 150/2s achieved 100% daytime availability, as all their scheduled attention was given in the night, weekends and between peak diagrams.

Casualties of the increased reliability and longer periods between examinations included depots such as Lincoln, which was closed on October 4th 1987 and Carlisle Kingmoor, which from May 16 1988 saw its DMU allocation split with those working lines in Cumbria going to Heaton, whilst the Lancashire duties went to Chester. Buxton ceased maintaining DMUs from May 6th 1989 when its remaining Class 104s were transferred to Chester. The UK's largest DMU depot at the time was Tyesley in Birmingham and its fleet covered lines all over the Midlands. It also saw visiting locomotives for maintenance but as sectorisation became ever more prevalent on BR, coupled with the loss of parcels traffic and the reduction of mail and freight trains, they became less frequent visitors as it focused almost exclusively upon DMUs.

The first of 204 air-conditioned 23 metre Class 158 vehicles began public service in September 1990 on the Glasgow Queen Street to Edinburgh Waverley route and services between Aberdeen and Inverness. Subsequent deliveries were used on lines in Northern England, the Midlands, Wales and the South West. The 'Super-Sprinter' revolution of the late 1980s and into the 1990s was responsible for eradicating most of BR's final locomotive hauled secondary passenger trains. Provincial, which later became Regional Railways, went

entirely DMU.

The 'Super-Sprinters' also helped in the drive towards services which ran over longer routes, such as the Newcastle to Stranraer and the lengthy Liverpool to Norwich services. DMUs on the latter service were based at Norwich Crown Point with some A exams undertaken at Newton Heath plus over night cleaning and fuelling at other locations. All B exams, however, were to be undertaken at Crown Point. The 90mph fully air-conditioned Class 158s offered a high quality service and their annual mileage was well in excess of 150,000. The improvements they offered through greater utilisation and reduced maintenance requirements allowed a dramatic improvement in costs. The Provincial Sector lost £473.6M in 1986/7 but following the introduction of the new DMU fleets Regional Railway's operating cost to revenue ratio of 4:1 in the late 1980s was reduced to 2.5:1 in the early 1990s.

In concluding this piece, it can be seen that sectorisation had helped to concentrate DMU maintenance on fewer and larger more specialised centres which, after privatisation, allowed each Train Operating Company to, where practicable, maintain their own fleets within their own facilities. That is very much a story for a later date.

Local Freight around North Manchester

In the 1980s the Manchester area still saw a considerable number of local freight workings with a wide variety of traffics being forwarded by rail. David Ratcliffe had the foresight to record on film these long gone scenes.

Stone trains

Close to the boundary between the cities of Salford and Manchester, traffic to the scrapyard at Brindle Heath and the wagon repair sidings at Hope Street had all but ceased by 1981, but stone trains from the Peak District were a regular sight with daily block workings from Tarmac's Topley Quarry, near Buxton, to their Pendleton terminal and from RMC's Dove Holes Quarry at Peak Forest to the Peakstone terminal at Salford Hope Street. Both of these services, which comprised modern air-braked privately owned hopper wagons introduced in the 1970s, carried limestone while, in addition, the Peakstone terminal was also the destination for a weekly trainload of granite from the Kingston Minerals quarry at Penmaenmawr formed of a set of railway owned vacuum-braked ex-iron ore hoppers.



LEFT: Unlike the train from Peak Forest, the weekly Penmaenmawr to Hope Street stone train employed a pool of elderly BR vacuum-braked hopper wagons (TOPS code HKV) that had originally been built back in 1956 to carry imported iron ore from Glasgow General Terminus to Clyde Ironworks and Ravenscraig steelworks. Following the closure of the Hope Street C&W works, maintenance of the wagons in the Penmaenmawr service was undertaken at Manchester Ashton Road Wagon Shops, near Ashburys. On 11th July 1984 Class 31 No. 31113 hurries through Manchester Victoria with a special working returning two repaired HKVs from Ashton Rd. to the stone terminal at Hope Street.

BELOW: In the 1980s the Peakstone terminal at Salford Hope Street was the destination for a daily train from Dove Holes Quarry, Peak Forest, and a weekly service from Penmaenmawr Quarry. The Peak Forest working, which had been equipped with new bogie hopper wagons in 1987, was invariably headed by a pair of Class 37s and 6J46, the 14:27 Peak Forest to Hope Street, is pictured near to Miles Platting behind Nos. 37684 and 37677 on 22nd September 1988.

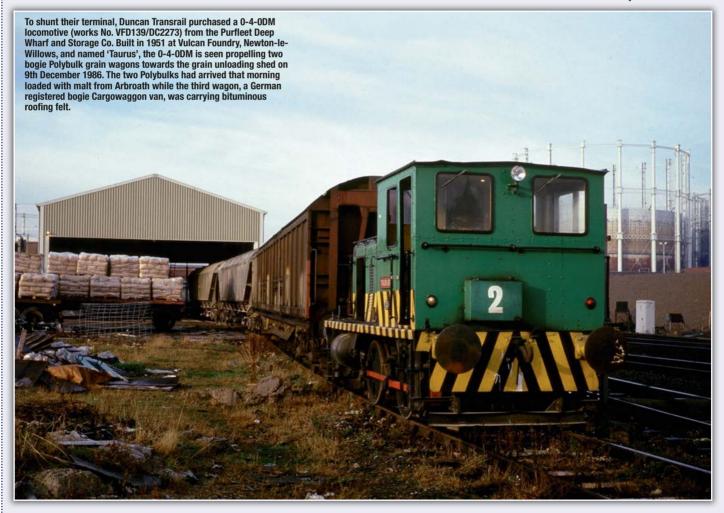




Bolton and Ordsall Lane

On the north western edge of the conurbation, the foundry at BREL's Horwich Works produced brake blocks with a daily trip conveying them to Manchester's Ashburys Yard from where they would be forwarded on wagonload freights to locomotive depots and carriage works across the network. Some seven miles south east of Horwich, the town of Bolton also continued to support a daily trip from Ashburys Yard, this being retimed in 1983 in order to also serve Ordsall Lane, Salford, where Duncan Transrail had opened a new private freight terminal.

ABOVE: The Duncan Transrail terminal opened in 1983 on the site of Ordsall Lane yard, initially to receive vanloads of imported newsprint for the Manchester presses, but it quickly diversified into handling a range of other commodities including barium compounds, bituminous sheet, government supplies, grain, and wine and spirits. On 31st August 1984 Class 31 No. 31280 heads past Manchester Victoria East Junction signalbox with an early running 6T85 Ordsall Lane to Ashburys trip, consisting of a single bogie Cargowaggon van which had arrived at Duncan Transrail earlier in the week with cases of French brandy.



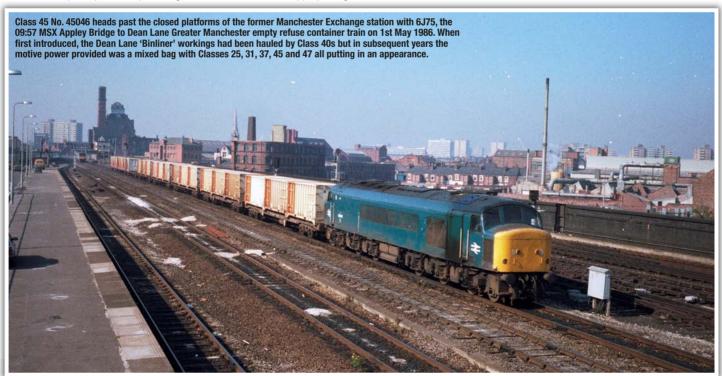


Class 31 No. 31113 propels a BR owned VAA air-braked van loaded with china clay into the NCL depot at Bolton whilst working 6788, the 09:30 local trip from Ashburys on 3rd July 1984. Situated next to Bolton Trinity Street station, the NCL depot received regular consignments of bagged china clay from Cornwall, which were then forwarded by road to the numerous wallpaper mills situated in Darwen and Blackburn. Other commodities railed to the NCL depot in the early 1980s included steel section from Scunthorpe steelworks, conveyed on BDA wagons, and dyestuff from the Continent carried in both bogie and two-axle ferry vans. However, all these traffics ceased when the NCL depot closed at the end of August 1984.

East of Victoria

To the east of Manchester Victoria station both Tilcon's Collyhurst Street stone terminal at Miles Platting and the Quickmix Concrete siding at Dean Lane each received two daily trains of limestone from Tunstead Quarry, these trains being formed of ICI owned bogie vacuum-braked hopper wagons of the type also used to supply the ICI chemical works in Northwich. Close to Miles Platting station could be found Skew Bridge Sidings which not only provided access to the Civil Engineers' Newton Heath Concrete Works but also provided a convenient location to stable wagons waiting to enter the Newton Heath Traction Maintenance Depot and was the base for Trip 85, also known as 'North Manchester Local Trip No. 1'. The concrete works, which was usually shunted once a day, produced a range of items including concrete troughing for the Signal & Telegraph Engineers department while freight traffic into Newton Heath TMD included around eight tank wagons of gas oil each week, plus occasional tank wagons of lubricating oil, and various opens and vans loaded with locomotive and dmu equipment and spare parts

Travelling further east along the Oldham line beyond the Quickmix terminal Greater Manchester Council had opened the first of their refuse treatment plants at Dean Lane in 1981. The plant was designed to handle approximately 400 tons of containerised waste a day and despatched up to seven trains each week to the Wimpey Waste Management disposal site at Appley Bridge, west of Wigan. In 1985 a similar refuse treatment plant was opened by the GMC at Brindle Heath, on the opposite side of the Salford to Bolton line to Tarmac's Pendleton terminal, and the train plan modified so that the Dean Lane trains would call to pick up and drop off wagons en route to or from Appley Bridge.



Weaste

Elsewhere in Salford, traffic to the Royal Ordnance Factory at Patricroft had ended in 1980 while the very occasional trainloads of naphtha from Washwood Heath to the North West Gas Board sidings at Ordsall Lane would finally cease to run in 1985. However, traffic to the Lancashire Tar Distillers oil terminal at Weaste, opened in 1965, remained buoyant with three trains per week scheduled to arrive from the ICI/Phillips refinery at Port Clarence conveying derv and kerosene plus a weekly trainload of fuel oil which ran from either Lindsey Refinery at Immingham or from Waterston Refinery near Milford Haven. During the 1980s Weaste was also the destination for an occasional trainload of diesel from Shell's Stanlow Refinery.



In the 1980s the oil terminal at Weaste, situated at the end of a half mile long branch which left the Liverpool to Manchester main line at Eccles station, would usually receive three block trains each week carrying derv and kerosene in bogie Class A tank wagons from the Phillips refinery at Port Clarence. The discharged tanks would head back to the north east as 6E31, the 10:40 MWFO departure from Weaste, which is seen heading through Manchester Victoria behind Class 47 No. 47361 'Wilton Endeavour' on 9th May 1989.



Opened in 1965, Weaste oil depot was situated next to the Manchester Ship Canal and, to access the unloading sidings trains, had to traverse a short section of the privately owned Manchester Ship Canal Railway. Consequently the BR locomotive would leave its train at Weaste Junction with all shunting into and out of the oil depot being performed by one of the Ship Canal's own locomotives. MSC No. D3, a Hudswell Clarke 204 bhp 0-6-0DM (works No. HC D1188/built 1960) shunts loaded tanks of kerosene at Weaste on 8th December 1989.

Calder Valley Line

Heading up the Calder Valley line from Newton Heath, coal traffic to Chadderton Power Station ceased in 1981 but the adjacent Middleton Junction sidings might still contain a handful of loaded coal hoppers waiting to be tripped to the British Fuels depot at Chadderton. The short mile long branch to Chadderton was worked by the Class 08 locomotive out-stationed at Middleton Junction until that diagram was withdrawn in 1984 and the job added to the work of 'North Manchester Local Trip No. 1'.

Continuing along the former Lancashire & Yorkshire main line towards Rochdale, the next freight location to be reached was Castleton where, although the F.W. Woolworth private siding, the coal depot, and the general freight depot had all closed in the 1970s, the Long Welded Rail Depot and Civil Engineers Sidings remained very busy with traffic being handled both by the local trip and by special train. Freight traffic could also still be seen along part of the Castleton to Bury line for, although Rawtenstall Coal Depot closed in 1982, the first mile of the line from Castleton remained in regular use to serve the works of the Standard Wagon Company at Heywood.



In 1986 the Manchester area freight trips were recast with most now running directly to and from the major Speedlink hub at Warrington rather than via the yard at Ashburys and on 23rd April 1986 Class 45 No. 45069 was recorded at Miles Platting with 6F14, the 14:45 Castleton to Warrington Arpley. Its train includes BR air-braked opens and vans recently transferred to departmental service, which had been picked up at Skew Bridge Sidings and Newton Heath, as well as three Borail wagons loaded with rail from Castleton and a privately owned two-axle chemical tank that was returning to traffic following repair at Heywood. After heading through Manchester Victoria this train would next call at Ordsall Lane to pick up any traffic from the Duncan Transrail depot.



Once or twice a week the Castleton trip locomotive would run down the Castleton to Bury line as far as Heywood in order to serve the Standard Wagon Co. works, and, as there was no run round loop at Heywood, wagons would be propelled down the branch the short distance from Castleton. On 29th March 1988 Class 47 No. 47117 is seen arriving at Heywood propelling a single bogie potash container flat in need of repair.



Multiple Memories Railcar Gala

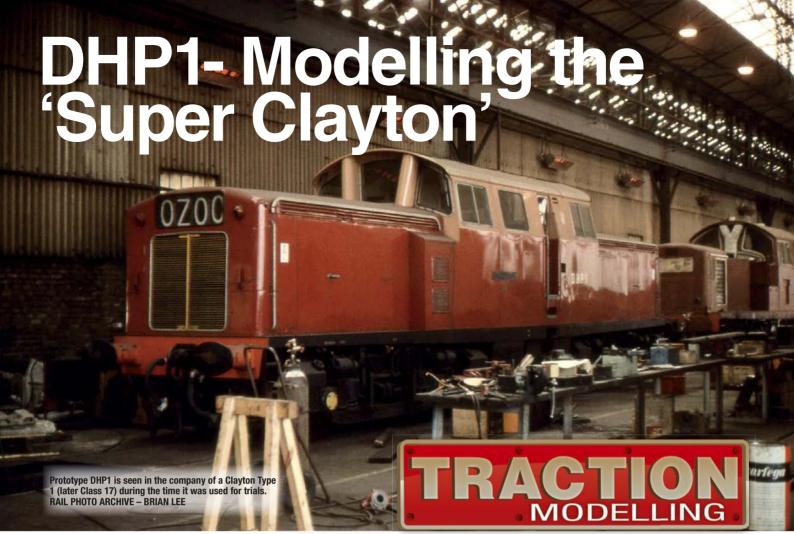
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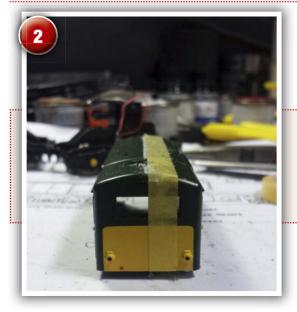
James Smith set himself the task of building a model of DHP1, one of the most elusive of all the prototypes produced for BR's consideration.

Constructed as a joint venture between the Clayton Equipment Company and Rolls Royce, DHP1 had four 375HP engines and hydraulic transmission along the same lines as 10100 (the 'Fell' locomotive). The loco was completed in June 1963 and trials on BR started in July. Pictures of it working trains are rare as, by 1964, interest in the locomotive had dropped and it was stored in Clayton's yard having clocked up a mere 450 miles on BR metals. Its final days were spent at International Combustion in Derby acting as stand-in works shunter. Once the regular loco was repaired, DHP1 was stored before being broken up in 1966.

I have always been intrigued by this strange-looking prototype in its striking red and cream livery and spent many years collecting pictures and information, hopefully to one day produce a working model. Having come across a cheap Heljan Class17 Clayton chassis on eBay, and acquiring a damaged matching body from Howes Models, I began planning how to 'cut and shut' a Class 17 into DHP1. Having found scale plans of the locomotive, and happy that I had all the dimensions reasonably accurately scaled, I made a start.



Firstly, the Class 17 body and chassis were stripped to their component parts and work started on removing the bonnet sections from the running plate, making sure to preserve as much of the details of the bonnet side doors as possible.



As the bonnets of DHP1 are much wider than a standard Class 17, I cut down the centre line of each bonnet section to allow me to insert fillets later. In addition, it is easier to alter the bonnet side grills and doors to match DHP1 with the nose sections split in two.









The bonnet side doors had to be moved closer to the nose ends, but thankfully the doors are the same on both locomotives so all I had to do was to cut out the radiator louvres and doors, cut away the louvred section and move the doors into the resulting hole closest to the nose end. The louvred section was then glued face down into the remaining gap to fill up the empty space. A piece of thick plasticard at the back strengthened the joints. The same process was carried out on the other bonnet pieces.



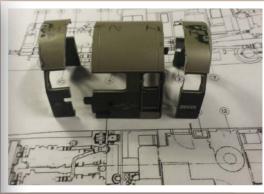


Once the side doors had all been altered, the bonnets were rebuilt to the correct width for DHP1. 5.5mm had to be added to the width, so strips of thick plasticard were cut and inserted with plenty of plasticard and liquid poly used internally to strengthen the joints and fill up the headcode box apertures. Once hardened, the plasticard inserts were filed and sanded flush, followed by seemingly endless rounds of filling and sanding until achieving a smooth surface. Also at this point, I used a sharp knife to carefully slice off the moulded nose end headlights, for re-use later.



I made new cab side overlays by tracing the scale plan onto thin plasticard. The overlays were then glued to the 3 pieces of the cab and strengthened on the inside with more plasticard and left to set hard. The overlays actually reduce the height of the cab door by about 2mm so I created a new step on each side to reflect this.





Whilst I was filling and sanding the bonnet sections, I also turned my attention to altering the Class 17 cab section. The cab section of DHP1 is much longer that the Class 17 and the doors are not symmetrical. After cutting the cab section into three pieces, the middle section with the doors needs one side to be moved 4.5mm further to the left.









DHP1 had three-piece windscreens, so the Class 17 frames were removed and new overlays created by gluing paper copies of the DHP1 plans to plasticard sheet with PVA and cutting out the window apertures. The paper was then removed with warm water before thin plasticard strip was cut to create the window frames which were glued into the cab ends.

Cab side windows were carefully cut out, and a new roof made from thin plasticard with a couple of ribs added.





Once the bonnet ends were as smooth as I could get them, I needed to add new headcode boxes and the prominent front and side radiator grills. The headcode boxes are slimmed down Craftsman white metal ones, and the front radiator grill is actually a bodyside radiator grill from a scrap Tri-ang Blue Pullman power car which conveniently is very nearly the right size and shape! I added a central vertical bar and very thin slivers of plasticard around the bottom to re create the 'lip' of the original.



Although I originally thought DHP1 would be longer than a Class 17, it is in fact quite a bit shorter, so I needed to remove 9 mm from the running plate.





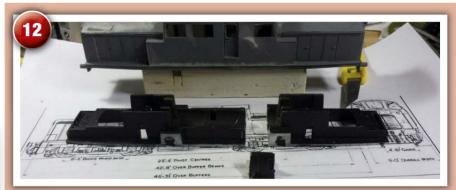
The bodyside louvres were created by cutting and filing a slot in each side of the bonnets above the doors. I made my own slats from 10 thou plasticard cut into 5mm wide strips. The first layer was glued about 1mm back from the edge of the bottom layer and the second layer was then glued on top but flush with the bottom layer. This was repeated to produce my 3 slat louvres







The reduced running plate, cab, and bonnets were recombined to produce a complete body once more. I trimmed down the height of the bonnet sides by shaving off 3mm at the bottom while ensuring things remained square. Next I cut them down to the required length, again ensuring they would butt up squarely to the new cab section. I glued one bonnet section on to the running plate and, once set, followed with the cab section and the second bonnet. I braced all joins internally and left to set solid before setting about filling and sanding.

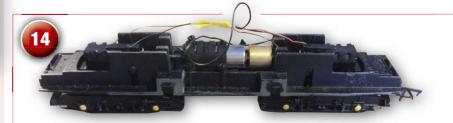




Whilst further filling and sanding was happening on the body, attention turned to the chassis. A 9mm section was removed from the chassis block, taken off-centre in order to preserve the motor mountings. The chassis was glued back together with Araldite and strengthened with plasticard underneath.



Once the chassis was back in one piece, the bogie mounting holes had to be moved out by 2.5mm using a drill and a file, to match the prototype bogie centres.



To fit within the now-shortened chassis block I removed one flywheel and worm so the chassis now has only one powered bogie. After deciding which would be powered I removed the final drive cogs from the other bogie to make it as free moving as possible.



The model Class 17's bogie side frames aren't an exact match for DHP1 but are pretty near. The most obvious differences and additions are the sand boxes and brake actuator cylinders. I 'borrowed' cylinders from one of my Hornby Class 50s and made new sandboxes by shaping and filing thick plasticard after carving off the originals, finally adding the original Heljan sand pipes to the bottom.





The tank and battery boxes under the cab were created by re-using bits of the original Class 17 tanks and adding new sections with plasticard. The inspection covers were cannibalised from an ancient Kitmaster 08 I had lying around!



When reassembling the chassis, I used cut down plastic cotton wool bud tubes to fill the gap in the bogie pivots which, incredibly, work very well. Once the motor was re-installed the original drive shaft was just long enough for the worm to mesh with the gear train on the one remaining powered bogie. Amazingly the chassis now runs more smoothly than when I first acquired it, and still manages to pull a reasonable load! Finally, the tank sections were added with extra weight glued behind to aid traction.



Turning back to the now virtually complete body, I re-attached the original bonnet end hand rails and the marker lights in their new positions, and added lamp brackets made from phosphor bronze strip. I marked out and cut the cabside hand and foot holds and added new cab hand rails. Exhaust stacks between the windscreens were made from scrap sprue. Another prominent feature added was the curved rail above the bonnet side radiator slats; 1mm strips of 10 thou plasticard was bent carefully to shape with the aid of a little liquid poly applied at the angles. Any gaps that I spotted were filled and smoothed back.



Further additions were exhaust ports on the roof above the left hand pipe (pinched from a Craftsman warship detailing pack), a boiler exhaust port (from a spare brass grill), and a hatch (a left-over Shawplan 'Deltic' water filler hatch). Buffer beam details were fitted and the original Class 17 nose end steps refitted.



A blow-over with aerosol primer showed up a couple of problems but these were soon sorted out and painting commenced. I used Precision Paints' GWR Indian Red and Humbrol cream.

After several thin coats were brushed on DHP1 was really coming to life. The front radiator grill was painted with Railmatch warning panel yellow and, after a few coats, a black wash was put in and wiped away when nearly dry to replicate the look of open slats.





The DHP1 transfers were created by carefully cutting up other numbers from BR diesel number transfer sheets. From photographs, the prototype looks to have white numerals but I used cream ones that I had to hand. A small amount of weathering was applied to reflect the locomotive having had a bit of use and then all was sealed with a coat of Humbrol spray satin varnish.

Finally, I commissioned some etched plates from Narrow Planet for the cab-side works plates to finish off the model. The larger plate reads 'The Clayton Equipment Co Ltd Hatton Derby' whilst the smaller plate is the 'Double R' Rolls Royce badge. Dimensions of both plates were estimated from photographs.



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- AV141 The West Yorkshire Class 141-144 DMU (1984-2016)
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North East & North Yorkshire Class 150 - 158 1987 - 2018

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Calder Valley & Leeds - Skipton Class 150 - 158



FelixJaz Anbrico

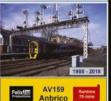












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Photographs by Andy York

Earl's Court

Terry Tew wanted a layout that recreated the urban locations, with British Railways and London Transport trains, that he remembered from his youth. Earl's Court is the result.

After considering various locations Terry remembered that, until 1940, the LMS (and before it the LNWR) had run four-rail electric multiple units into the District Line station at Earl's Court. Suspended during WW2, the service never resumed. This gave Terry an idea: just supposing that the LNWR had built its own station adjacent to the District Line one. Perhaps it might also have been a joint station with the GWR and remained open after the war

The layout

The layout has three platforms, a shunting neck (which leads to an off-stage dairy) as well as a parcels depot that provides some extra operational interest. There are no points on the scenic part of the layout, although there are four in the fiddle yard. Peco code 75 track has been used, together with further Peco products to represent the third and fourth conductor rails.

The main visible section of the layout is only four feet long so additional scenic section interest is provided by a bolt-on board at the front with industrial premises. An overbridge at the end of the station and a scenic High Street section help disguise the fiddle yard.



Considerable effort was put into researching what West London looked like around 1960. Modified kits from Kibri and various American manufacturers, such as DPM and Walthers, were used with many additional scratchbuilt parts added to Anglicise them.

Rolling stock

As well as a few steam locomotives, such as GWR pannier tanks, there are various diesel and electric multiple units. The LMS built 'GEC' units were built by heavily modifying Airfix and Dapol LMS suburban coaches. Bachmann 2 EPB models were turned into the three car BR Watford 'DC lines' units (the later Class 501), which involved shortening the metal chassis. Former Lima GWR railcars have been modified to produce a twin-power car version with centre coach. These models have styrene side overlays produced using a Cameo Silhouette cutter. An ex-GWR Hawthorn Leslie diesel shunter, No 15100, uses a detailed resin body on a Bachmann chassis. Main line diesels include ex-LMS No.10000, running in the condition seen shortly before withdrawal, as well as the smaller Bo-Bos such as BTH Type 1, Sulzer Type 2s and North British Type 2 hydraulics. There are also a small number of London Transport items such as the Metropolitan Line Bo-Bo electric locomotive and rake of 'Q' stock multiple units. All stock is fitted with DCC sound chips which adds to the atmosphere on the layout.







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H4-RHTT-005





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H4-RHTT-006



Due Nov '18

Additional 'Water' wagon with 3 water modules - weathered - £63

To keep up to date on all the latest new regarding this project, visit:

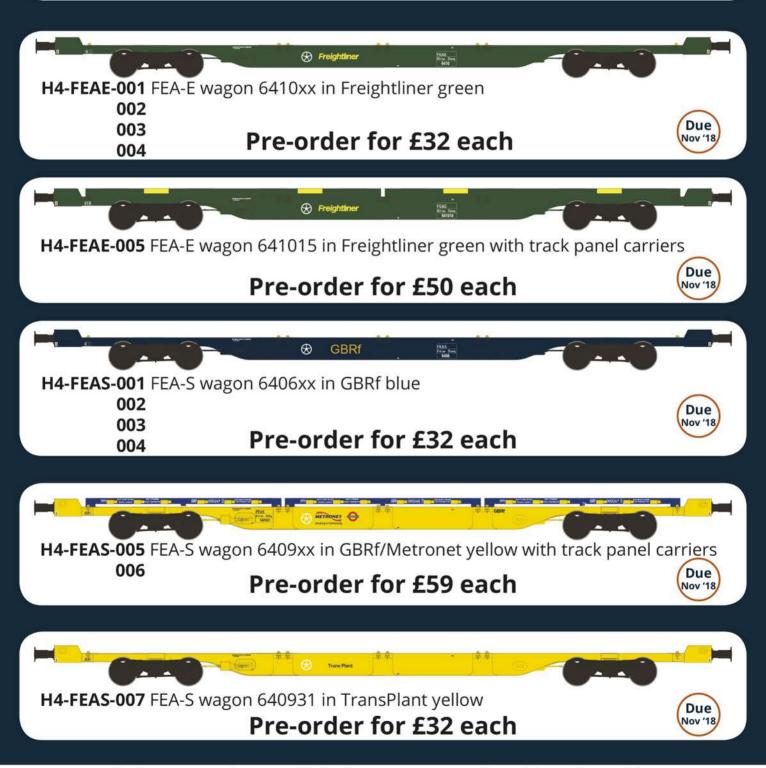
www.hattons.co.uk/RHTT



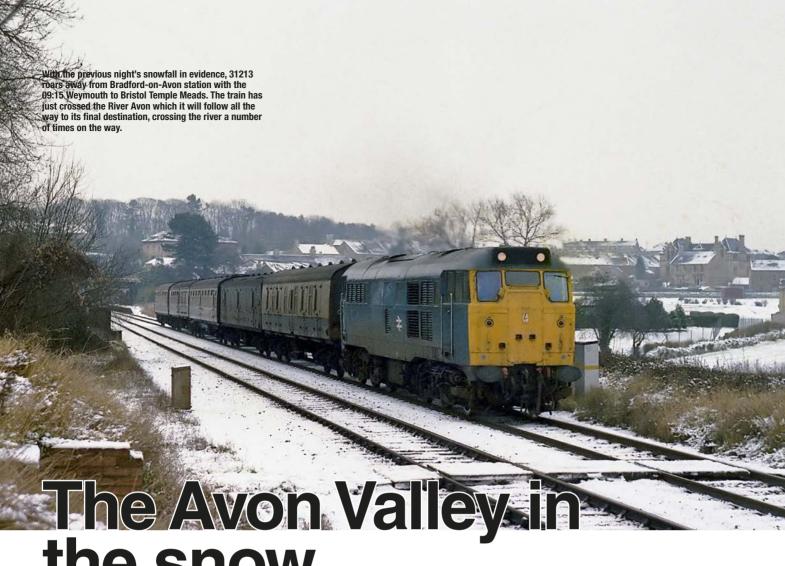
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the snow

With the winter, hopefully, behind us Steve Randall recalls a day in December 1978 when he seized the opportunity to photograph trains in the snow.

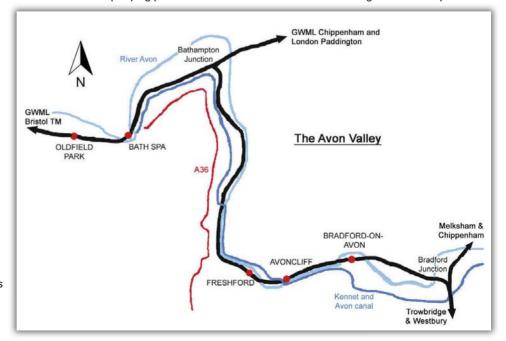
s regular readers may remember from my previous ramblings, I cut my spotting teeth in the glorious West Country. In December 1978 I was a fourth year at school in Bradford-on-Avon. Wiltshire. Whenever possible, I would get out and cop as many local locomotives as possible. December 21st 1978, as well as being the shortest day, was the first day of the Christmas holiday and I awoke to a cold and snowy morning.

I made the decision to get my bike out and ride down to the railway in an effort to see what was about and to get some seasonal pictures in the superb Avon Valley close to home. For those not familiar with this lovely part of the country, the line runs from Bradford-on-Avon following a gently curving north westerly direction towards Bath. At Bathampton Junction, it joins the Great Western Main Line for the run through the Georgian city and then on to Bristol. Running cheek by jowl with the railway is the River Avon, the Kennet and Avon canal and, for part of the way, the A36 trunk road. This combination makes it particularly interesting. Today, it still affords some superb photographic opportunities and is a popular location for many

photographers, particularly when there are steam charters.

I started my ride from Bradford-on-Avon in relatively benign conditions eventually turning for home in a blizzard at Limpley Stoke. The accompanying pictures show

every working I saw on the day. The thing to notice is the incredible variety of motive power seen in the matter of a few hours on what is a secondary route. It's what made the BR days so different from today's rather humdrum and homogenised railway.

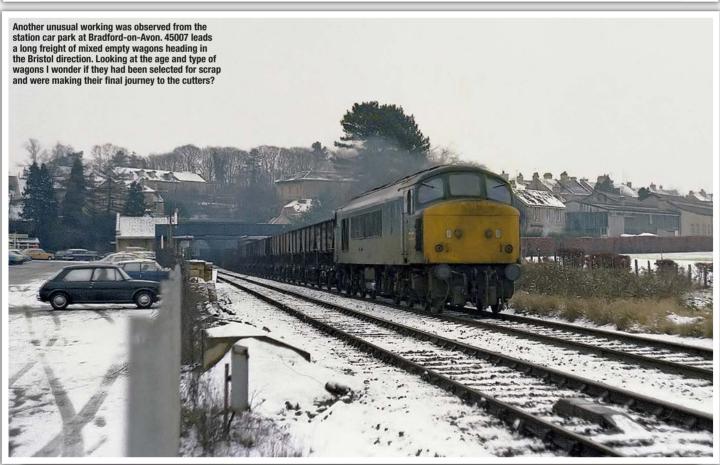




33027 is sporting the wrong Southern Region reporting code heading the 08:56 Portsmouth Harbour to Bristol Temple Meads working. 85 was a Portsmouth to Southampton/Romsey slow working, but it should have been 89 for the working pictured. The driver peers back waiting for the right away from Bradford-on-Avon station, next



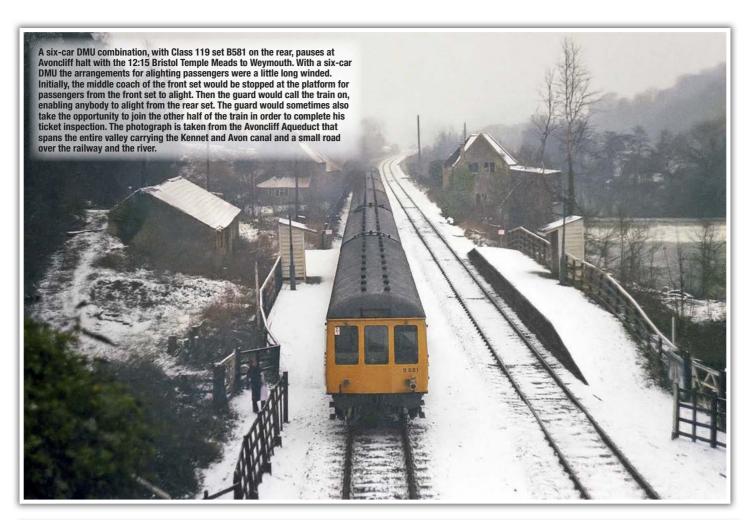


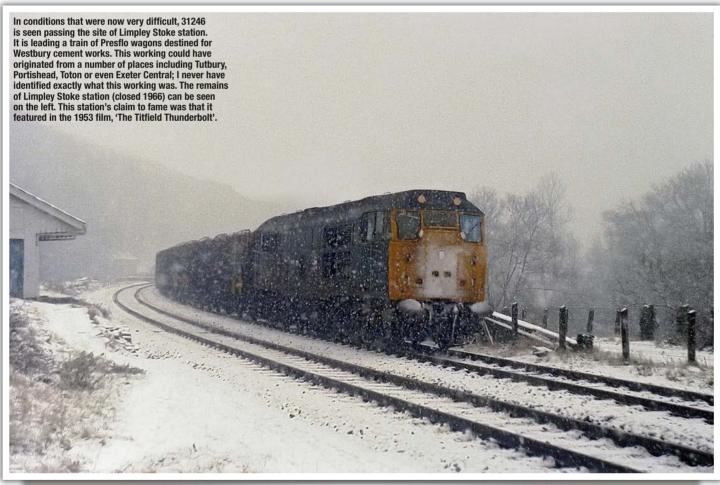




47055 leads an up parcels working along the Avon Valley. It is approaching Bradford-on-Avon and the photo was taken from one of the two foot crossings in this area. Both are now tricky to take pictures from as, like so much of the railway, they are chronically overgrown.







Michael Field Video NEW. Scottish Railway Roundabout 2017 Filmed mainly around the Highlands covering Specials, Freight, Network rail test trains and Departmentals with class 37s including 37025, 47s, 56s, 60s, 66s, 67s, 68s and 73-9s. R. T. Approx. 104 mins. On 2-DVDs £14. 95 + P&P Scottish Railway Roundabout 2016 With 20s, 37s, 47s, 60s, 66s, 67s and 73-9s. R. T. Approx. 79 mins. DVD £12. 95 + P&P BOTH 2016 & 2017 only £27. 50 + Free P&P The DVDs look at the Scottish rail scene with diesel traction Cheques to M. FIELD. (No cards) U.K. P&P £1. 55 per DVD The Rowans, Bishop Kinkell, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire. IV7 8AW. 01349-861129 m.fieldvideo@gmail.com





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Swindon Shed in the sixties:

D7055 is seen outside Swindon shed on 3rd April 1965. The author's notes show that during his time at Swindon the loco received both a 250 and 500 hour exam as well as three failures. The first was for a split compressor casing, the second compressor contacts having to be welded in whilst, on the third occasion, there was a turbo blower problem followed by a 3000 hour exam. JOHN IRELAND

David McPherson continues his account of the time he spent at Swindon shed when he was the interim mechanical foreman in 1965.

Memorable Loco Events

One little perk of the job was the intimate contact one had with locomotives and the fact that several hundred thousand pounds worth of equipment was temporarily entrusted to you. Many's the time I climbed on board a dead loco, ran through the startup procedure, got the engine(s) operating and did a quick cab check: brake pressure and the time taken to release the brakes; the A.W.S. braking times; the engine revs at idle and at full controller. Then I would follow these by a walk through the engine compartment to check the sound and appearance of the equipment therein. Occasionally, I'd fire up the train heating boiler. Sometimes, all this took place at the end of a routine examination when the fitter was away dealing with a failure. Provided the results were satisfactory, the loco could be released to traffic. My notes show that D1060, D1648, D1664, D1712, D4121and D7053 all suffered at my hands!

We saw quite a lot of Brush 4s. The 7th May was quite a novel day for me as I named

my first locomotive. D1664 was selected to be named 'George Jackson Churchward' and the bodyside plates were duly delivered to the shed. I helped mark out the location for the plates, then drilled the holes and fitted the nameplates to the locomotive myself. During the run-up afterwards, I noticed the driver's windscreen wiper motor had packed up at one end. Well, there was a performance to get and fit a replacement when time was short on a drizzly day. I managed it, though I'd never recommend balancing on the buffer beam of a Brush 4, one hand on the grab rail as an anchor, and the other wielding a wrench, frantically trying to remove the nut securing the wiper blade assembly from the motor spindle.

On busy days, the troops didn't mind me getting my hands dirty, and that was a busy day since I noted D7051 also on shed (3000 hour exam and brake gear check), D807 (damaged brake gear and pre-heater problems), D7012 (125 hour exam), and D7055 (500 hour exam).

An advantage of being a maintenance man

was knowing the short cuts for speeding up preparation time, and also avoiding trouble. The Achilles Heel (well, one of them) of the hydraulic locos was the need to preheat the engine cooling water system before the engine would start, the general idea being that all parts of these high performance engines had to be expanded to normal working dimensions before starting by preheating the circulating engine cooling water. Whether the spate of cylinder head cracks that plagued the Maybach and MAN engines occurred as a result of incorrect starting procedures it is hard to say, but generally the problems were caused by forgetfulness. This was to some extent understandable when considering the variety of engines that worked through Swindon, and the fact that some were cold start and others were hot

I remember one day when Landore's D1066 had failed on a down Swansea express. We'd patch-repaired the fault and the next morning the running foreman asked me to start it up as he was going to get the



On 23rd May D7006 is seen together with an English Electric 350 hp shunter outside the shed. The filthy state of this former steam shed is apparent in this photo. RAIL ONLINE

loco away to Wales on a Severn Tunnel Junction freight to work it back home. As so often occurs, we were in the middle of a spate of failures (on the downward cycle) and the loco became my 'baby' since the crews were fully employed elsewhere. When I climbed up on the loco I looked through the engine repair book. "Lost A engine - high coolant temp" was the entry. So it was into the engine room for a good visual inspection but all looked well. There was no trace of water on the floor plates, the levels were alright, the hoses were tight and the radiator banks were dry. However, I was surprised to see the pre-heaters, for warming the coolant and getting the engine temperature up prior to starting, hadn't been switched on. Consequently, the engines were stone cold, and should be impossible to start. However, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and by removing one of the panels in the cab, I bridged out the coolant low temperature relay, and pressed the start button. There was a "Weee-Clunk" response, and the loco rocked - an hydraulic lock.

I went back into the engine room and cracked open each engine bleed valve and coolant spewed out of three of them. I shut all the others, went back into the cab and

with some trepidation pressed the start button again and the engine fired. Then it was back into the engine room immediately to close the three bleed valves (a noisy operation). Finally I removed the bridge across the coolant low temperature relay in the cab, secured the panel cover and wrote in the engine repair book, "Suspect porous cylinder heads A1, 4 and 8." I then handed the loco over to the running foreman with an angelic smile on the face, knowing I'd broken plenty of rules in the book, but it kept the railway running.

Some of the faults that occurred were not that simple. D1060 caused a string of call-outs to Swindon station whilst working between South Wales and Paddington and back. Drivers complained of losing time because a transmission kept tripping, which shut down the engine. A week after the first report of trouble, '60 was on shed to greet us and boy, did the electrician groan when he clapped eyes on her. He was even more dejected as he climbed down after inspecting the engine repair book. "Every rotten shed between Raneleigh Road and Landore has had a go at this one, and each one says, 'No Fault Found'." Where to start?

Well, we checked the transmission oil

levels which looked good. We checked the operation of safety switches attached but no faults there. We checked the condition and tightness of hoses as these were known trouble spots on the 'Westerns'. We even checked A engine in case of a spurious fault, but drew a blank. Next we did the on-shed static run-up and were still quite baffled. Unfortunately, this enthusiastic mechanical foreman then had a brainwave and rang up Bristol Control.

"We've 1060 failed on shed, after a week of transmission trips on the main line. Can't find anything wrong on shed, so the fault must develop on the road. Can Reg (the divisional mechanical inspector) ride her?"

"No. He's on leave."

"Anyone else?"

"Nope - only you."

So, in a way, I got press-ganged into riding the beast, having first extracted a promise for a clear road.

That evening, the up fitted freight colloquially called the 'Barry Bananas' had a loco change at Swindon. At 19:30 the train set off eastwards into the gathering dusk, carrying a by now not quite so enthusiastic foreman as passenger. The Swindon driver was asked for a fast run. "You'll be so lucky,



with 20 on and 45 m.p.h. limit."

"Well, rub the brakes a bit," I said, "because we've got to get the transmission oil temperature up." By Stratton St. Margaret 1060 was up to 50 m.p.h. as the loco was walking away with this load.

"Can you shut down B engine and let A do the work, then slow down and try again?" I asked.

"Don't forget to tell the guard to book lost time against the engine and not the driver," came the retort, as B engine stop button was pressed.

The South Marsden signalman was leaning out of his window as we roared by at 15 m.p.h. on one engine. Our driver slid open the side window and gave him the royal wave as we passed.

Back in the engine room, I kept an anxious eye on the fault lights and gauges but they stayed infuriatingly normal. Knighton Crossing flew by with the loco still on full revs and we were really motoring along. At Uffington, the revs suddenly dropped away to idling. There was nothing amiss in the engine room, so off I went to the cab. Ahead twinkled a green over a yellow signal light.

"Running up the back of something," said the driver. Through Challow, and still the distant signal arms wouldn't drop. We came to a stand for 5 minutes at Steventon inner home signal. Then we were away again on yellows all the way to Tilehurst, and were switched to the Up Relief line at Reading West, after another wait to let a down freight behind a 'Warship' cross us.

We went through Reading on full revs but they were not to last for long. Sonning Cutting saw us with more yellows, which was how we continued right through to Acton. In Old Oak Common yard, I made a very irate call to Paddington's diesel controller. Yes, he knew about 1060. And no, it wasn't going west on the 00:40 papers as he wanted it for a South Wales freight. Yes, he appreciated that the fault had not been found. No, the loco was not going into Paddington. Goodnight.

I thumbed a lift into Paddington and rode with a driver I knew on the paper train back to Swindon, crawling into bed at 3 a.m. for a brief fitful sleep. The irony was that at 7.30 a.m. as I walked into the running foreman's office, I was greeted with loud laughter. The joke was revealed by pointing fingers through the window. There stood 1060, failed again after the A engine transmission tripped. My notes simply record 'D1060 F.H.D. (For Home Depot)'. The grapevine had it that after several days' investigation, Landore found a

broken wire in a cable duct.

Breakdowns

The other part of shed life which nobody complained about were call-outs. These were trips out in the breakdown vans (BDV), usually dragging our 36 ton crane. We averaged about a call a fortnight, and the daylight ones usually occurred in the middle of a busy spell of work on shed. Maximum disruption was assured, because almost all the members of the breakdown gang were maintenance men. Bang went all your promises for loco release times!

Most of the jobs we were called to while I was there consisted of re-railing wagons off the road, derailed through points splitting, heavy shunting, buffers locking, track giving way, and so on. One night we had to stand by while the Royal Train travelled on the Down road to Cardiff behind D1029.

Shedmaster Jack Chaplin sometimes accompanied us, and since we were all equal on the BDVs, usually took off his shedmaster's hat and regaled us with railway lore collected over many years mostly on the LNER. Oh for a tape recorder! He had that wonderful gift of being a born storyteller of railway happenings, and usually had us in stitches. His very dry and lively sense of



humour was the perfect antidote when the job was not going right or the weather was abominable.

The first BDV I recorded was a call to Wotton Bassett, to rerail a Continental wagon No. 1057099 that took just half an hour.

Another was on 11th May, when DMU power car No. W50715 drove through the spring points on the shed incoming line in the afternoon, derailed one bogie and blocked the shed. It was well slewed and off the track, and would be a massive jack, pack and traverse job, all manual tasks in those days. So the decision was taken to use the 36 ton crane, which meant locating and fitting the special spreader beam to hook under the mainframe of the rail car. It took us four hours to get it back on track and stow the vans away afterwards.

A memorable and unusual call-out was on a Monday morning, when spare motive power was always tight. As I walked into the shed, I was greeted by, "B.D.V.s to Hullavington, D.E Sidings." So the breakdown gang members were buttonholed as they came to work, and by 8 a.m. we were being hauled out of the B.D.Vs. stabling road by a 'Hymek'. Calamity then struck as the points sprang under the tool van, which gracefully dropped one bogie onto the ballast. "Getting a bit of practice in

first, are you?" was the dry comment of the shedmaster, as he watched us go through the 'jack & pack' routine. The 'Hymek' was promptly collared for another job.

With the tool van back on the track, the only available locomotive was a steamer: 'Hall' class No. 6917, already turned for return to Gloucester. The 'Hall' dragged us into Swindon Station, ran around us and set off down the Main. I was on the footplate, completely unaware that this was to be the last time I'd ride a steam locomotive on B.R. in ordinary service. We cantered along to Hullavington, and crossed over the Up Main and ran gently into the D.E.'s sidings, to stop by a porter. "I've set the road for you. Just keep going." A tug on the regulator and we quietly glided off into a veritable wilderness of grass and weeds. Soon, the rails were obliterated.

"Go and stand on the buffer beam," requested the driver of his mate. "I can't see the wood for the trees in here ... hah, hah!" Then, as the fireman disappeared along the running plate, he added, "I wonder if he'll meet Dr. Livingstone." We moved off again.

After another 100 yards, the fireman motioned to the driver to ease off. Abruptly, the rear of a wagon came into view. We stopped, and could see no landmarks at all, just matted vegetation that rose to the height of the running plate and small trees thickly sprinkled about. "It feels much better using a steamer as a battering ram," remarked the driver, pouring himself a cuppa from the billy. "You're that much more exposed on a diesel."

I jumped down into the '6 foot', snapping off a sapling during the descent, and peered under the ashpan to judge the risk of fire from the compressed vegetation thereunder. Then, I trampled a way past the loco to the visible wagon. A bit of grass-pulling from around the wheels revealed that this one was still on the track. Another wagon loomed into view. Checked this one out - on the rails, too. Yet a third, and a fourth, all OK. There the track finished, in an overgrown earth bank. The shedmaster joined me.

"Where's the derailment?" I asked.

"Keep going, young man" replied the voice of experience. "They've shunted this siding and pushed one off the end."

And so it proved. We ploughed a trail through the undergrowth and came across a four-wheeler, around 15 feet from the track. "Some push," I said. Studying the size of intermediate saplings which would need removing before hauling the wagon back to the rails, the shedmaster observed "Do you know, this wagon could have rested here for several decades?"

The job was pretty straightforward. We unloaded plenty of timber from the match truck and got the 'Hall' to drag the four wagons onto another road. The driver, on his return, wryly advised us that they would need more than a 'Hall' to find them next time! Meanwhile we laid out the timber to form a rough permanent way, and jacked up the wagon to lay timber under its wheels. After roughly clearing the ground between the loco and the wagon, a long, strong wire was

then coupled between the loco's drawhook and that on the derailed wagon. Gently, the loco reversed, pulling up the slack, and applied more steam when the wire was taut. With a jerk, the wagon slowly began rolling back along our timbers and up onto the rails first time. Then the back-breaking job of recovering our packing timbers began, the shedmaster's absence now was a trifle conspicuous!

Depending on the time and distance to travel to site, the inspector in charge (usually the chargehand) would authorise the opening of rations. That meant the stove would be lit up and the 'cook' (a fitter's mate) would put on the large cast iron teapot billy for a steaming hot mug of condensed milk sweetened tea - I can taste it now! The billy hadn't been cleaned since Churchward's time, to judge by the black tar lining it inside. Then later on would come the soup, a real country vegetable mix, and stew. There were biscuits and cheese, and as much as you wanted at the site and on the return to the shed.

I stayed in the messing van for the return trip to Swindon, enjoying some of that delicious tea and soup and we were soon all convulsed with laughter as our born raconteur shedmaster regaled us with some events he'd witnessed in his steam days. Meanwhile the chance to ride a steam locomotive was slipping inexorably away, to terminate for ever at 2 p.m. as we rolled to a stand on shed.

Another memorable breakdown occurred two weeks later, on a Saturday morning. At 9 a.m. we were told, "B.D.V.s to Ashbury Crossing – Up Main blocked by loco failure." By 10 a.m. we were inching our way on the parallel Up Relief line past a line of coaches and we were leaning out of the van window, being harangued! This was no ordinary passenger train but one of the Swindon Works Annual Holiday or 'Trip' trains, bound for the Kent Coast. Many were the ribald comments flying back and forth, as fitters and chargehands, with whom I'd worked as an apprentice, saw who their saviours were!

D7065 was immobile all right. The driver reported one hell of a racket and thumping from the bogie under him, and the cause was there to see. The cardan shaft between the inner and outer final drive gearboxes had sheared. Both ends had flailed around until the train stopped. There'd been a fair bit of damage to the brake rigging, too. This was no 'jack and pack' job, so we removed just enough to get the loco mobile and back to Swindon.

The damaged brake rigging was quickly removed and piled up on the engine room floor through '65's' side doors. Both parts of the cardan shaft were similarly dealt with. During this time, our loco, diminutive D2186, had moved forward onto the up Main and reversed back onto D7065. Once we'd finished our work, it hauled the uncoupled 'Hymek' up to the crossing and reversed back down to drop the loco onto the BDVs. Meanwhile, another 'Hymek' had arrived light engine to take over from '65, and so order was sorted from chaos. The delayed



D1664 'George Jackson Churchward' had its nameplates fitted at Swindon shed on the 7th May 1965 by the author. It is seen here four years later on the 11th June 1969 at Kensington Olympia at the head of a Willesden to Cardiff Freightliner. By this time the locomotive has received full yellow ends but still retains its D prefix to the number. RAIL ONLINE

holidaymakers were on their way east and, after D2186 had run round the BDVs, we set off west, still chuckling over their lousy start to the holiday!

Memorable Loco Repairs

D1648 was one of our driver training locos, being an early dual air-braked Brush 4 and still quite new. It was a great loco except for one thing - we couldn't get the train air-brake system to work. The loco air-brake system was OK, as was the train vacuum system, but no matter what we did, feeling our way cautiously, we ended up having to tell the duty running foreman that once again the loco was available but only for vacuum braked workings.

We didn't stop the loco just for that fault, usually we looked at it whenever it was on shed between turns, but it was a constant niggle. We eventually got hold of brake system drawings and focused on the proportional valve, but we couldn't prove that that valve was the culprit. Days spread into weeks and the loco seemed to mock us each time we walked past it.

One glorious Saturday morning we were once again tracing out the air pipes inside the loco body. The fitter and I were following a

particular small bore pipe and found a small fitting. "What's this?" asked the fitter.

"Strainer," I replied, looking at the schematic drawing.

- "What's it do?"
- "Filters the air."
- "From what?"

"Any muck and sediment in the pipelines." $\,$

"Think we ought to look at it?"

"Naw, this is a new loco, we haven't interfered with the brake system at all. It's got to be clean."

"Well, we're clutching at straws, let's have a dekko" and out came a shifting spanner and he unscrewed the cap off the strainer housing. The fine mesh filter was clogged with a tightly packed mixture of paint and rust flakes. With a growing feeling of euphoria, we carried the tiny strainer off the loco and showed the mixture to other fitters and the running foreman, cleaned it up with compressed air, replaced the strainer, started the loco's engine and, with bated breath, tested the air-brake system. Both train pipe gauges registered pressure, and when we operated the air-brake lever, the brake pipe gauge dropped to zero. Cheers of jubilation rang inside the shed that day. D1648 lost its smirk, and became just another Brush 4.



Another interesting occasion was on a drizzly Monday when our golfing fanatic fitter, walking across the shed entrance, suddenly leapt to one side, shouting "FORE" at the top of his voice! D4124 skidded with all wheels locked along No. 7 shed road, through the shed entrance and into a pile of empty oil drums. That put the loco out of service for a couple of days whilst the footsteps were straightened. If anyone had been in the way.....

We were associated with a little history making event on the weekend of 14th-15th August 1965, when we carried out the vacuum governor change on the 12 'Hymeks' at Swindon, bringing the vacuum brake operation down from the Great Western standard of 25 inches to the British Railways standard of 21 inches.

D0280 'Falcon' came on shed on 3rd May for headquarters inspection. Effectively the loco was a 'Western' with electric transmission instead of hydraulic and in a Brush 4 body. I'd ridden on 'Falcon' before and I liked the combination as, without a doubt, it was stronger than a 'Western', and it cleared Box Summit a full 5 mph faster than any 'Western' could on up Bristol expresses.

The Ending

The mechanical foreman had long since

retired, but during my nineteenth week in his job, officialdom caught up with me and I was told I would be replaced the following week. By now I had my own copy of the BR Rule Book, a Bardic Lamp AND my first (and only) B.R. black mackintosh, to make me feel part of the establishment.

My appointed replacement arrived, straight off the 'Blue Pullmans', on which he'd been an inspector. Like the shed master, he had a formidable repertoire of stories, both tall and short. The handover was swift and sure. Ivor was, after all, still a running shed man.

Handover complete, I was instructed to report to Cardiff Division, and from there was immediately reallocated to Landore and the beginning of a new chapter.

Postscript

This unusual view, taken on 23rd May 1965, shows the interior of the shed with one of the Swindon built D95xx series

650 hp hydraulic locos on the right, whilst outside is a line up of Brush Type 4s, 'Hymeks' and 'Westerns'.

I was returning to Swansea from London on the 'Blue Pullman' one Friday evening some months later. We pulled up on the through road in Swindon station with a lighting fault on one of the Pullman cars. Who should attend but one of my former colleagues, an electrician from Swindon shed. We had a brief chat while he traced and rectified the fault and we parted ways. That was a call-out I hadn't experienced whilst at Swindon shed.



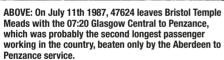


BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS

f the major railway stations of Britain, Bristol Temple Meads was one that ranked highly among enthusiasts. First there was that dramatic curving overall roof and the interesting architecture of the station itself. Then there was the variety and frequency of services in almost every direction: to London, to the North and Midlands via Birmingham, to South Wales, the lines to Weymouth and Portsmouth and, of course, to Taunton and the West Country. Many trains changed locomotives at Bristol whilst Bath Road depot was directly opposite the western end of the station. It was no wonder then that enthusiasts and photographers flocked to the station to watch trains well into diesel days. Gavin Morrison visited Bristol on many occasions and here we present a selection of his images taken in the 1980s and early 1990s







LEFT: A Plymouth to Leeds parcels train departs Temple Meads 31450 in the late afternoon of July 11th 1987

TOP: From time to time British Rail used to run some rather enterprising specials. A train which was well patronised was this triple-headed one by departmental Class 37/0s, Nos. 37092, 37058 and 37197. The trio are shown leaving Bristol en route to Paignton, having left Paddington at 08:40 on Sunday 20th June 1993.

MIDDLE: 50050 makes a splendid sight as it leaves Temple Meads on the Saturday 07:00 Oxford to Paignton on the 6th July 1985.

BOTTOM: 33012 and 50041 are seen outside Bristol Bath Road depot on the 7th June 1987.



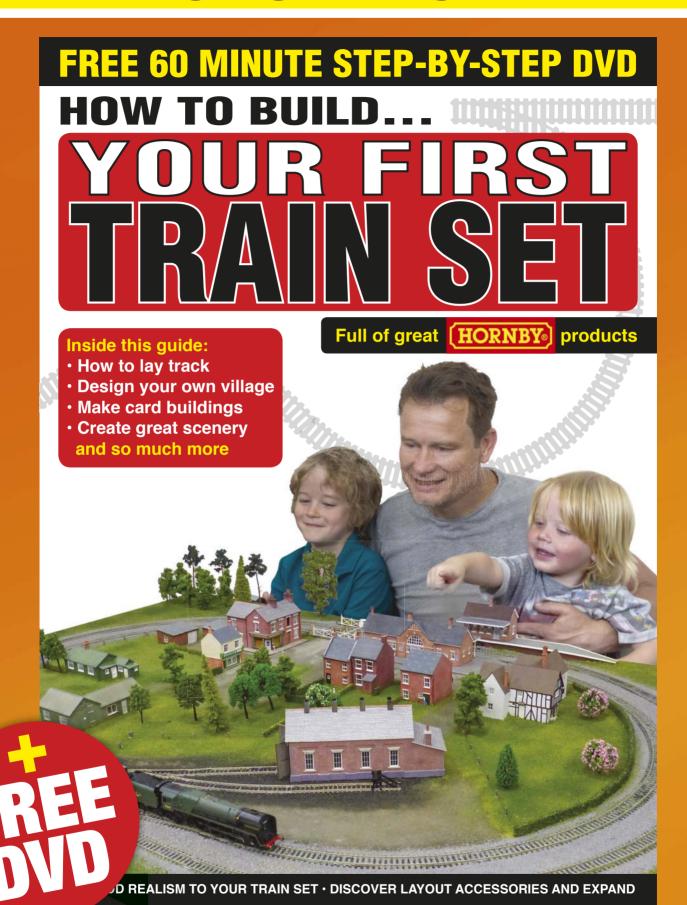








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Electric Locomotives of the Swiss Railways

In the third of his series of articles about Swiss electric locomotives, Michael Watkins turns his attention to the real giants of the pre-WW2 years. The article looks at the history of the Be 6/8 and Ce 6/8 classes, better known as the 'Swiss Crocodiles', and the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon Be 6/8s which, at the time they were built, were the most powerful locomotives in the world.

n November 1913, the Schweizerischen Bundesbahn (Swiss Federal Railways or SBB) had decided to electrify the mountain part of the Gotthard line (the main route to Italy) between Erstfeld and Biasca. This section has numerous spiral tunnels and a ruling gradient of 1 in 37. The work was finished in 1920, despite the difficulties of the mountainous terrain.

Ce 6/81 No. 14201

SBB obviously needed powerful passenger and freight locomotives to operate the Gotthard line so various prototypes were

Swiss electric locomotive classification		
Ae	maximum speed of over 80 km/h	
Ве	maximum speed between 70 and 80 km/h	
Ce	maximum speed between 60 and 65 km/h	
Wheel arrangement classification		
	powered axles	total number of axles
6/8	6	8

ordered in 1917, including No. 14201. Under the Swiss locomotive classification system (see table) it was a Ce 6/8, with the wheel arrangement 1'C+C'1.

The running gear of the locomotive was made up of two bogies, each with three driven axles powered through a jackshaft and coupling rods. At the outer end of each bogie was a single radial Adams axle which had a small amount of side-play. Two motors were mounted in each of the bogie frames and each frame was connected to the other with a sprung loaded coupling. The rigid locomotive body was mounted on the sliding pivot points of each bogie and played no part in transmitting traction forces. Small equipment boxes were mounted on the outer parts of the bogie frames which gave the locomotive its nickname of 'Köfferlilok' (travel trunk).

Weighing no less than 118 tonnes, it had a continuous power output of 1,440 kW

(1,930 hp) at 44 km/h (27mph) but its one hour rating was considerably higher at 1,750 kW (2,350 hp). The locomotive's maximum speed was 65 km/h (40 mph) whilst its overall length was 19.24 m (63 feet 1 inch). A large beast indeed!

The work for the locomotive was shared between Brown Boveri (BBC), responsible for design and construction, and the Schweizerische Lokomotiv und Maschinenfabrik (SLM) for the mechanical part.

The locomotive started work in December 1919, by which time SBB had already ordered what was to be the principal freight locomotive for the Gotthard line, the Ce 6/8" class. Nevertheless No. 14201 was used between Bern and Spiez and, during 1920, its regenerative braking was tested on the mountain section of the Lötschberg line between Kandersteg and Frutigen.

Some writers have suggested that No.

14201 was the prototype for the Ce 6/8" class but this was not the case as they were a totally different design, as will be seen below

Following the trials, 14201 commenced duties on the Gotthard line, working alongside the Ce $6/8^{\circ}$ class from Erstfeld depot (on the northern side of the Alps) before being transferred, in 1925, to Biasca. There it was used as a pilot locomotive on trains climbing the steep gradients up to the southern portal of the Gotthard Tunnel at Airolo. Its regenerative braking meant that it was able to handle trains on the descents on its own with the traction motors feeding current back into the overhead wires.

In 1931 the regenerative braking was removed and 14201 returned first to Erstfeld and then, in 1938, to Basel where it was used on freights in lowland Switzerland well into the 1960s. After withdrawal from normal service it was used as a test locomotive during brake tests. The locomotive can now be found in the Swiss Transport Museum in Luzern.

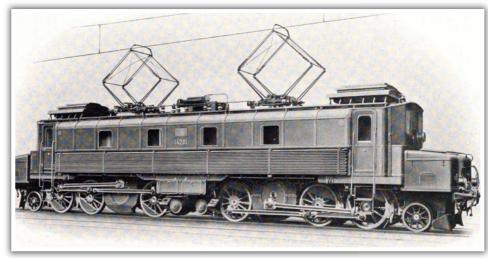
The Ce 6/8" class

In Spring 1918 SBB placed a series of orders for locomotives to operate on the Gotthard line once it had been electrified. Two of the types were intended for hauling heavy passengers services, the Be 4/6 and Be 4/7 classes; these will be described in a future article. The third type was destined to haul the increasing number of heavy freight trains over the Alps

On the recommendation of the Swiss locomotive building industry, SBB opted for a design suitable for hauling freight trains on the tight curves of the Gotthard line. It was felt that an articulated locomotive would be more suitable for the line rather than the rigid bodied Ce 6/8 No. 14201. Therefore the locomotive would be made up of three sections: at the ends were the two powered units, each with a low profiled body, whilst in the middle was the main full height body containing the transformer and cabs at either end. This gave excellent visibility and protection in the case of accidents for the driver. The locomotive's wheel arrangement was 1'C+C'1. Not unsurprisingly the type gained the nickname 'Crocodiles'.

The two power units were connected directly to each other through a sprung short coupling, thus allowing the central body section to play no part in transmitting power to the locomotive's drawbar. In each of the powered units there were two motors geared to a jackshaft between the drive axles furthest away from the cab, with power being transmitted to the wheels with coupling rods.

Numbered 14251–14283, the mechanical parts of the locomotives were constructed by the Schweizerische Lokomotiv- und Maschinenfabrik (SLM) whilst Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon (MFO) was responsible for the electrical parts. Nos. 14251 to 14273 were fitted with the switchgear needed to run on either 7,500



SBB Ce 6/8! No. 14201 was built in 1917 and was destined to be the only one of its type. SCHWEIZERISCHE LOKOMOTIV-UND MASCHINENFABRIK - SBB HISTORIC



One of the preserved SBB Ce $6/8^{\shortparallel}$ locomotives, No. 14253, is at the head of a special train at Erstfeld. MARTIN F WALDER

v AC or 15,000 v AC. This was necessary because, at first, haulage on the Gotthard line was shared with steam locomotives and to avoid problems with steam and smoke on the catenary insulators the voltage was reduced.

The class was no lightweight, with a service weight of 128 tonnes and a maximum speed of 65km/h. They had a continuous power output of 1,000 kW (1,340 hp) at 40 km/h (25 mph) and a one hour power rating of 1,650 kW (2,240 hp) at 36 km/h (22mph). The locomotives were

fitted with regenerative braking to assist controlling the descents on steep gradients. In the 1940s, Nos. 14251 to 14265 were fitted with more powerful traction motors which increased their power output to 1,810 kW (2'440 PS) and an impressive one hour rating of 2,700 kW (3,640 hp). The classification of this batch was also changed to Be 6/8" to reflect the increased maximum speed of 75 km/h whilst the locomotives were renumbered 13251-13265. Two other locomotives were also renumbered in 1949, presumably following other modifications:

Be $6/8^{\text{III}}$ No. 13310 brings a stone train through St Gallen station on the 29th July 1971. Note the different arrangement of the jackshafts compared to the earlier Ce $6/8^{\text{II}}$ type. STEPHEN RABONE





Seen when brand new BLS No. 203 shows the original style of body carried by the first four Ae 6/8s.

14260 and 14262 becoming 14284 and 14285.

Upon delivery from 1919 onwards, the class saw service between Bern, Thun and Spiez, which was the only SBB electrified main line at this time. After the completion of the electrification of the Gotthard line from October 1920 they took over freight operations on this demanding route. However, they also continued to see service in other parts of Switzerland. For instance, one of the preserved examples, No. 14253, was allocated to Erstfeld depot on the northern side of the Gotthard line from 1920 to 1924 before being based in both Basel and Zürich between 1926 and 1976. After World War II, and especially with the introduction in 1955 of the modern Ae 6/6 Co-Cos, the class migrated from the Gotthard line to lowland Switzerland where the were used especially on block trains of stone and sugar beet. Others were used for shunting duties in marshalling yards. Withdrawals began in 1968 but the last remained in service until 1986.

Seven of the class still exist in various museums with one, No. 14253, part of the operational SBB Historic fleet.

The Ce 6/8^{III} class

The Ce 6/8 class was a development of the earlier 'Crocodiles', with a modified drive and an increased continuous power output of 1,190 kW (2,200 hp) at 38 km/h (23 mph) and a one hour power rating of 1,810 kW (2,260 hp) at 35 km/h (22 mph). Numbered 14301 to 14318, the locomotives were placed in service in 1926 and 1927. Originally this batch was intended for use in the Swiss lowlands but they were almost immediately sent to work on the Gotthard line where they largely remained for the next thirty years. Although excellent workhorses, they soon gained a reputation for the distinctive sound of their drive, a consequence of the simplified drive system. The drivers referred to them as 'rocking

chairs'. After various modifications in the 1950s the maximum speed was increased to 75 km/h and the locomotives renumbered to 13301 to 13318 with their classification changing to Be $6/8^{\text{III}}$.

With the introduction of the Ae 6/6s, the entire class was moved from Erstfeld to Basel depot where they operated trains all over lowland Switzerland in much the same way as their older cousins. The final locomotive of the class was withdrawn from service in 1977. Three locomotives remain, with two of them operational: 13305 has been renumbered back to 14305 and is part of the SBB Historic fleet.

The BLS Ae 6/8 class

The Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon (BLS) was a private company that operated the, then, single track mountain railway between Thun and Brig via the Lötschberg Tunnel. At Thun the BLS connected with the SBB line to Bern and at Brig with the Simplon line between Lausanne and Italy.

By the early 1920s, the BLS was finding that its existing electric locomotives could no longer cope with the increasing volume and weight of trains over the demanding climb to the Lötschberg Tunnel.

The requirement was for a locomotive that could pull a 510 tonne train up the 1 in 37 gradients at 50 km/h (32 mph). As the line

was single track, the lower speeds that were acceptable on the double track Gotthard line using the Ce 6/8^{III}s, with their rod drive, were simply not fast enough. The BLS needed a locomotive to run at higher speeds in order to increase the line's capacity and be sufficient for the traffic department's needs.

The new design had a non-articulated body with a 1Co+Co1 wheel arrangement. Two motors were mounted on each bogie, transmitting power to the axles through Sécheron spring drives with both bogies being linked together so that, once again, the body played no part in traction forces. The four locomotives, numbered 201-204, were built between 1926 and 1929 by Breda in Italy with Société Anonyme des Ateliers de Sécheron (SAAS). The body had a flat cab front with doors on its angled corners. There was a small access platform with handrails across the front of the locomotive. These impressive machines weighed in at 140 tonnes

Initially, the locomotives were classified as Be 6/8 as their top speed was 75 km/h but, after re-gearing in 1939, they became capable of 90 km/h and thus were reclassified Ae 6/8. With an hourly rating of 3,300 kW (4,425 hp) they were, at the time, the most powerful locomotives in the world. Whilst principally intended as freight locomotives they were also sometimes used on heavy passenger trains.

A second batch of Ae 6/8, numbered 205 to 208, was built between 1939 and 1943, this time by by SLM and SAAS. These had a rounded cab front and were also the first Swiss locomotives where the driver could sit rather than stand. The first batch were subsequently rebuilt with similar cabs, although the window sizes varied on the older locomotives.

During the 1960s various improvements were made such as to transformers, the braking system which allowed the maximum speed of the locomotives to be raised to 100 km/h.

Withdrawals of the first series commenced in 1977 with No. 201 but No. 203 lasted until 1989; all were scrapped. The later series remained in traffic until 1995 with three of them still being in existence. No. 205 operates nostalgic excursions for the BLS and is based at Spiez depot.

Ae 6/8 No. 207 is at Kandersteg on the BLS Spiez to Brig line on the 14th August 1991. The regenerative braking racks can be seen on the roof. DAVID FORD



Letters



'Deltic' on a freight

I realise that TRACTION doesn't normally cover 'current' main line events but this photo must be the most bizarre working of the decade so far. In the photograph 'Deltic' 55009 is seen piloting 66082 past Stourton in south Leeds at 15.32 with train 6Z55 Milford to Neville Hill empty stone wagons on 27th October 2017. It has taken me 56 years to get a photo of a 'Deltic' on a freight, having missed them working at Blythe. There had been an open day at Knottingly depot during the weekend where D9009 was on display. It needed to be returned to the National Railway Musueam, so some bright spark decided to put it on the front of this empty stone train as far as Neville Hill from where it could run light engine to York.

Gavin Morrison via email

D700



Alex Fisher's article in TRACTION 244 on the life and times of Hymek D7000, the doyen of my favourite locomotive class, contained some interesting facts and reminded me how scandalously short their lives were. I consider myself lucky to have been around to see them (99 of them anyway as D7071 and D7079 eluded me!)

However, the two photos on page 8 are not dated correctly. Photographic evidence indicates that D7000 was still devoid of yellow panels in June 1963, but had gained them by October. During a visit to Swindon Works in May 1965 its air horns were moved to the cab roofs and its unique black bufferbeam cowls were repainted light green like the rest of the class. In March 1966 it was running with miniature snowploughs attached (outer blades only). It was photographed inside Swindon Works again in green livery with small yellow panels alongside D838 'Rapid', whose gleaming maroon paintwork (there is still no credible explanation for this retro-repaint 50 years on!) would date the image to early September 1968. I saw

D838 still gleaming at Plymouth North Road on 11th September, while D7000 was released from Swindon 11 days later with newly-applied full yellow ends but, unlike D838, no data panels. These had been applied by May 1969 so the photo of D7000 at Bath Road depot without data panels would have been taken in late 1968 or early 1969, judging from the low winter

I have no reason to doubt the identities of both Hymeks in the lower photo, which I know has been published elsewhere with this date, but the painting out of 7000's 'D' prefixes can be detected and this process had not started a mere 10 days after the end of steam traction on BR. On the stated date D7000 was about to be called into Swindon Works, if it was not already there, as noted above. My own first sighting of 7000 was at Chippenham on an eastbound freight on July 29 1970, its blue livery still very clean after another recent visit to Swindon. As it still looks quite clean in the photo I'd suggest that the day and month are correct but the year should be 1970,

Neil Phillips by email

Ed. The dates quoted in the captions were those supplied by the photographers. Checking my own records for late 1968 I saw my first locomotive without a D prefix on 21st October 1968, whilst I also made a note that the RCTS magazine reported the diesels officially lost their D prefix from 1st November 1968

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Electric Locomotives of the Swiss Railways

I'm pleased to set yet another interesting article about railways abroad. In TRACTION 245 we are talking about some amazing electric beasts from 1923 onwards available for both passenger and freight traffic on diverse parts of the Swiss network. I'm looking forward to further articles about European locomotives.

I wish we had a similar electric coverage 95 years on from 1923. We played with steam in Britain for far too long, then diesel and now bi-mode. In another century our railway may catch up. For anyone who say electric traction is boring, they should spend time with some of the traction featured in this piece.

Peter Colbeck by email

AM4s/ Class 304s and D6700

I read with interest Nick Ross's article about the AM4/ Class 304 electric units in TRACTION 241, which was accompanied by some splendid pictures, especially the period shots dating from the 1960s. Mention is made in the article of passengers describing the interior of one particular unit as being 'Prehistoric', which could well be the reason why the nickname of 'Dinosaurs' was bestowed upon the Class 304s by the railway fraternity? As described in Part One of my two-part Albion G.O.D. article in TRACTION 238 and 239, AM4 No. 029 was involved in a serious collision with an empty oil train as it was leaving the Albion (Gulf) terminal back in May 1970.

In TRACTION 242 the historical account of D6700 referred to its use on freight services, which included South Wales oil workings. In addition to those mentioned in the article, these also included working to the West Midlands paired with a sister Class 37 atop the Waterston to Albion (Gulf) oil trains and corresponding return empties, as featured in Part Two of my Albion G.O.D. article (TRACTION 239) and in the following issue's letter page (TRACTION 240).

David J. Hayes, Wednesbury



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