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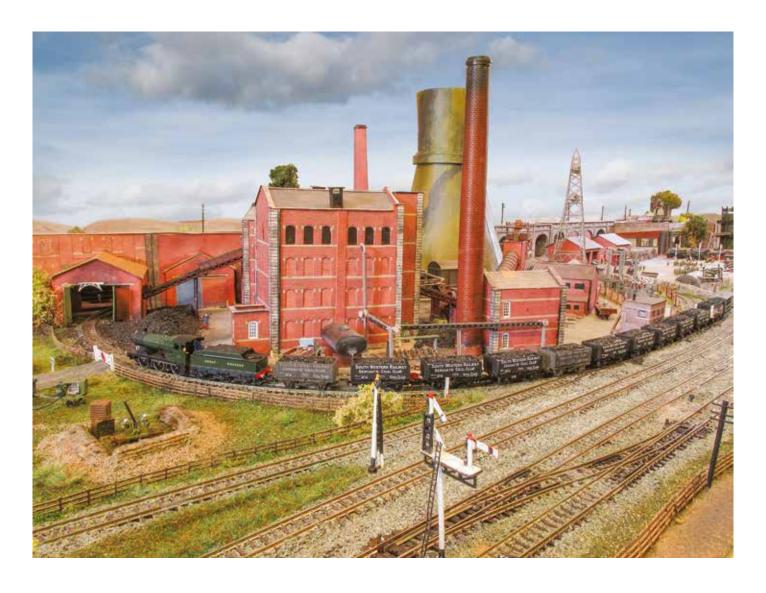
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IN THIS EPISODE...

Join us this episode for a visit around Hartley Poole Too (N), plus Phil Parker solves a common electrical problem with points and Howard Smith provides an introduction to landscaping with polystyrene.



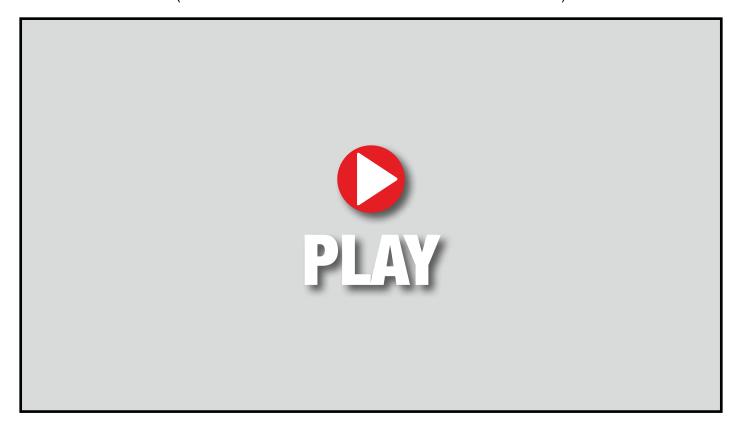
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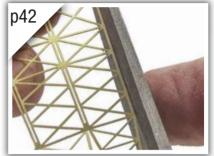
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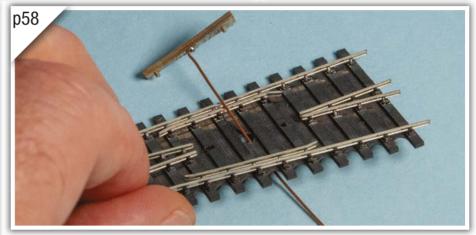












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BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING

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Welcome to March



s this latest issue heads to the printers, we're in the first few weeks of our third national lockdown.

We've all got to adjust once more to the tight restrictions imposed on our lives, but at least least we have the foreknowledge of what to expect this time around.

Hobbies have never been so important. Not only because they offer a degree of escapism from troubling news headlines, but also, the majority of hobbies keep our minds, and in the case of railway modelling, our hands, busy for long periods of time.

Despite all the recent doom and gloom, for some businesses, lockdown has had a positive effect, with many stockists and manufacturers reporting an uplift in sales over the last year. A clear example of this would be the recent announcements from Hornby, which, despite the challenging economic circumstances, is investing heavily in a number of new products – see page 26 for our in-depth report.

Like many hobbies, model railways have been moving more into a virtual space over the past 12 months and, although we miss the face-to-face interactions, there's still much to look forward to over the coming months. Our third virtual exhibition will be hosted in the spring, though videos and new content is being uploaded daily to our website, *www. world-of-railways.co.uk*. If you want to keep up-to-date with all the latest news, reviews, and information on the hobby, subscribing to our weekly newsletter is a must.

On the magazine front, never has there been a better time to go digital. Every digital issue of BRM comes with more features, bonus videos and extra photographs. If you visit www.pocketmags.com/BRM, you'll find a new (and free!) digital sample issue of BRM. Take it for a spin and share your feedback with us – we know many of you are now switching to this format. We understand that digital isn't for everyone, however, and if you struggle to get to the shops, you can still subscribe to have printed copies of BRM delivered through your letterbox.

In your March issue of BRM, we're presenting three fantastic layouts for your

perusal. First is the excellent 'Peterborough North', which delivers tenfold on operational complexities and aesthetics.

Our second layout is the fictitious 'Harley Poole Too', an action-packed layout that is ready for its debut in the exhibition circuit. You can see this layout in action in this episode of BRM TV, available to BRM print and digital subscribers. The final layout is the resurrected 'Amalgamated Wagon Works', which spent 14 years in a barn before being reinstated by Ben Lord.

Within the pages of this issue is also a great selection of practical advice, including some top tips for locomotive weathering, a guide to help you get started with more realistic N gauge track, beginners' advice for painting your own backscene, plus step-by-step demonstrations on building a pylon and a wood yard.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue and that it provides you with a much-needed escape from these difficult times.

BRM Team

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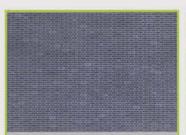
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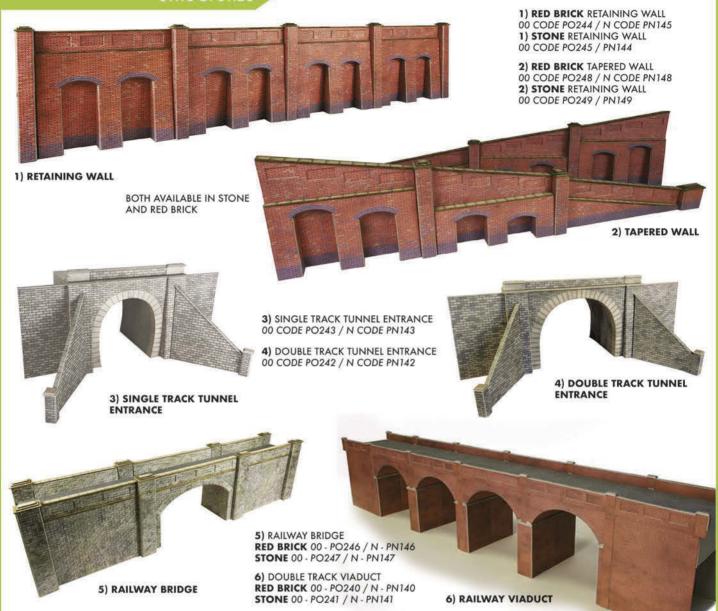
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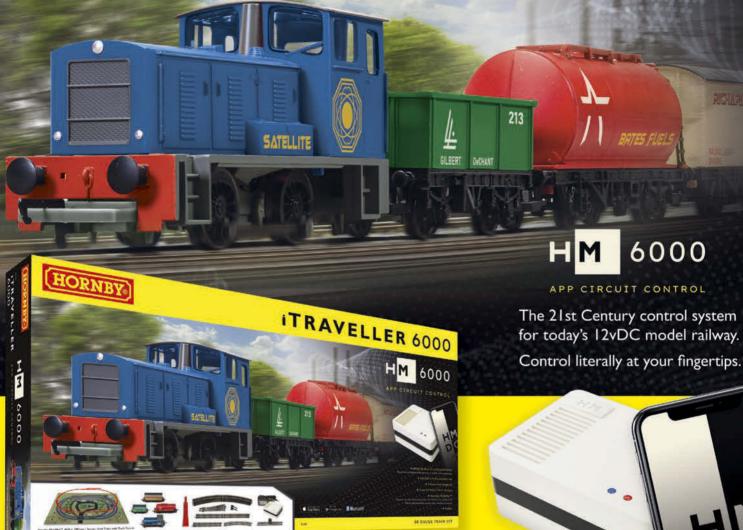
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The iTraveller 6000 Train Set is the... Model railway of the future!

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ROLLING STOCK

0-4-0 Diesel Shunter Locomotive. Satelite, Open Wagon, LWB Tanker, LWB Closed Van





3rd Radius Starter Oval, with Track Pack A (includes point and buffer) HM 6000 Module (R7292), Transformer (P9100W), Power Connecting Track (R8206), Hornby MidiMat (1600 x 1180mm), Re-Railer



from those illustrated.



/officialhornby







WORLD OF RAILWAYS

LOCOMOTION MODELS AND RAILS OF SHEFFIELD REVEAL V2 COMMISSION



Manufactured by Bachmann Europe Plc, Rails of Sheffield and Locomotion Models have unveiled RTR model exclusives, depicting the LNER's V2 2-6-2 Class for 00 gauge, models of which are expected to arrive in spring, 2021.

The partnership of Locomotion Models and Rails of Sheffield has announced four new model commissions of the LNER V2 Class 2-6-2 locomotives from Bachmann Europe Plc. Two models of *Green Arrow* are being produced for Locomotion Models, and two with Durham and Yorkshire connections are being produced for Rails of Sheffield.

The 00 scale models will utilise the all-new tooling that has been developed by Bachmann. A 21-pin decoder socket is mounted in locomotives and models are to be provided with a pre-fitted speaker in the tender for ease of digital sound installation. The locomotive and tender have a custom-designed interconnection, giving a through electrical connection.

Models will come with a realistic firebox flicker sprung buffers, etched namenlates and NEM coupling pockets. All models are fitted with five-note motors. DCC sound options are

Models will come with a realistic firebox flicker, sprung buffers, etched nameplates and NEM coupling pockets. All models are fitted with five-pole motors. DCC sound options are available for each model.

SCALESCENES CREATES DOWNLOADABLE SMALL STATION KIT FOR 'OO' AND 'N'



Redesigned for 2021, the company is offering a download and print-at-home station platform, shelter and lamp hut in both 2 and 4mm:1ft scales for only £3.99.

Modellers can build unlimited length straight or curved platforms with a choice of realistic surfaces to suit all eras.

The kit includes a barrow crossing, waiting shelter and lamp hut – most elements required for a small station. Features include:

- A ballasting edge to prevent damaging the platform sides during this messy process
- Manhole covers, drainage gutters and cable trunking
- Compatibility with Ratio fencing (ramps and gates)
- · Safety lines and tactile pavers
- Selection of different 'MIND THE GAP' and 'MIND THE STEP' markings
- Illustrated instructions

TWICKENHAM MRC OFFERS FREE CLUB MAGAZINE



Twickenham & District Model Railway Club has recently launched an upgraded and expanded online monthly club magazine, which it is offering to anyone interested in joining the club.

There is far more to being a club member than just building layouts and, according to the club, the new magazine delves into many aspects of club life to keep potential and existing members informed and entertained.

The magazine is said to have proved popular with the existing membership and is free of charge to potential members and interested parties so that they can get a taste of what the club has to offer once it can reopen.

The free trial will last until the club can hold a special open evening where visitors can meet club members in person.

The magazine is sent out via email attachment and interested parties can request this free trial offer by contacting the club on chairman.tdmrc@gmail.com.

NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM'S STATION HALL TO RECEIVE ROYAL RESTORATION



The National Railway Museum's Station Hall, a former goods depot and now home to the national collection of original royal carriages, is set to receive a £500,000 refurbishment, thanks to the Friends of the National Railway Museum.

The charity organisation, which supports the work of the museum, has raised £300,000 from members to develop and refresh Station Hall's permanent exhibition, which is housed inside the historic Grade II-listed building.

A working depot until the 1970s, Station Hall is home to six royal carriages, including one of the museum's most popular attractions — Queen Victoria's original 1869 saloon.

The project will re-display the carriages into complete royal trains matched with period locomotives. A new addition to the hall will be 47798 *Prince William*, one of a select number of locomotives to have hauled the current royal train.

Due to start in spring 2021, the exhibition refresh will see an estimated 200 new collection items and 25 rail vehicles go on display.

Alongside the new display, the Science Museum Group will also provide £200,000 to complete physical improvements to Station Hall's roof and walls.

The Station Hall project will take place alongside the museum's £55.3m Vision 2025, which will see the comprehensive regeneration of the National Railway Museum and surrounding area. Work is scheduled to be complete by 2022, subject to wider Vision 2025 and York Central activity.

ARCHITECTS APPOINTED FOR LOCOMOTION'S £4.5M BUILDING

AOC Architecture has been appointed by the Science Museum Group to start work on a £4.5m project to deliver a new collection building at Locomotion in Shildon. Once complete, the facility will house up to 50 rail vehicles, bringing the total at Locomotion to 120 and creating the UK's largest rail vehicle display.

The building is part of Locomotion's £6m improvement programme to regenerate the museum's historic site, with Durham County Council contributing £2.25m to support the delivery of the new building. The architects will aim to create a sustainable, low maintenance and low energy-usage building, which is sympathetic to the local area and accessible for visitors.

The final design will feature a lightweight, steel frame construction that will be open to the public and will house railway vehicles in a stable environment. Construction is due to start in April 2022, subject to planning permission being granted for the development, with work scheduled to be complete by early 2023.

Locomotion is already home to famous vehicles from railway history such as the Deltic, HST and APT prototypes and the original *Sans Pareil*, which competed against *Rocket* in the Rainhill Trials of 1829.

The line-up of new vehicles travelling to the new building will be determined in the coming year, but for the first time, it will enable Locomotion to theme displays and tell more comprehensive railway stories.

ACCURASCALE SHARES FIRST EPS OF CLASS 37



Accurascale has said it has "received a substantial parcel containing a myriad of Class 37 bodies and various tooling parts" from its factory, allowing the team to produce a model of class doyen D6700. In the weeks ahead, Accurascale has promised operating samples of its other announced variants, including the highly-anticipated WIPAC-equipped Class 37/6, Scottish car headlight Class 37/0s, the modern Class 37/4s and its manufacturer exclusive 97301 with its unique roof, distinctive flush noses and underbody-mounted radar equipment.

Announced at the Warley Model Rail Show in 2019, the models proved popular with modellers, showing appetite for a new generation of 'Syphons'. The manufacturer opted to assemble the prototype sample as D6700 – a locomotive that recently celebrated its 60th birthday and which is the subject of a special edition model with Locomotion Models, due for release next year.

This pre-production model represents the first five locomotives of the class constructed, delivered from English Electric's Vulcan Foundry at Newton-le-Willows between December 1960 and January 1961. Distinctive when compared to the other 114 split headcode machines due to their characteristic riveted multi-part cantrail grilles, Accurascale's model represents this and a range of other 'as-built' features. The prototypes haven't previously been done in this condition in 00 gauge, offering modellers variation in their fleet for 1960s and 1970s BR era layouts.

These include a four-character headcode display, frost grille, double-riveted roof, buffer beam cowling with large round Oleo buffers, bodyside water filler access door and steps, and accurate early buffer beam with vacuum/steam/control piping only.

HELJAN REVEALS NEW MODEL AND RE-RELEASES IN 2021 CATALOGUE



2021
UK MODEL
RAILWAY
PRODUCTS

Heljan's 2021 new model range catalogue is on-sale via its network of retailers. Highlighted inside are re-runs of its previously unavailable items, with new liveries and a previously unannounced model for 0 gauge — an LMS 50ft inspection saloon.

In development for release in 2022 with prices yet to be confirmed, Heljan has said the model will feature DCC-controlled interior lighting, detailed saloons and LMS or B4 bogies, dependent on era/livery. No fewer than 12 liveries are planned, spanning the LMS, BR and Privatisation eras. An ideal single-vehicle train for layouts of all sizes, it will complement the range of locomotives available from Heljan.

Also confirmed is a re-run of its 00 gauge Cargowaggon IWB bogie van in both standard and new liveries – including Colas/Tarmac and Blue Circle Cement. In response to customer demand, it will be joined in 2021 by a new run of the 00 gauge IGA bogie flat in Cargowaggon, Corus Rail and, for the first time, RailAdventure livery – the last-mentioned offered as a twin pack with authentic concrete ballast weights to complement the IWB barrier wagon pack released earlier this year.

Extra versions of the new LNER '02' 2-8-0 have been included in the production run now in preparation, adding further combinations of the GNR/LNER cabs and tenders, livery variations and two weathered BR editions.

 $\tilde{\text{D}}$ tails of these new items have been circulated to Heljan UK stockists and will be available to pre-order shortly.

HORNBY 2021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Despite the challenging economic and retail circumstances of 2020, Hornby remains focused on new product development, and despite delays to some of its models, the manufacturer isn't shying away from investing in new products, some of which came as a welcome surprise.

Hornby Playtrains

Hornby's new Playtrains range is a remotecontrolled battery-powered train set, suitable for 3-to-6-year olds. Joining the manufacturer's 2021 product range will be different locomotives with sounds, working lights and three forward and reverse speeds. Train sets, train packs and expansion packs are also to be made available.

The standard basic train set is designed to be just that - you'll get a circle of track, a locomotive and rolling stock (that's coaches, wagons or both) and a controller at an entry-level price. It's enough to get started with a small setup - the train can stop, speed up, slow down or travel in reverse. Wagons or coaches can couple up, too.

'Flash' the local express (R9332) contains a three-car express train, which has working lights, sounds and three forward and reverse speeds. Inside, four straight lengths of track and eight curved lengths are designed to easily clip together to form an oval of track

Battery control has an advantage, too - no track cleaning means reliable operation every time. All you need are four AA batteries for the trains and two AAA batteries for the remote control.

The Playtrains system can be expanded with a number of packs. Train packs each provide an additional locomotive, rolling stock and controller, while track packs - of which there are currently four - allow for more complex track setups.

A maximum of two trains can be used with Playtrains at any one time - these are paired with each controller via a switch to the underside (A or B) that allow them to operate with controller A or B. Rolling stock couples together or pulls apart with magnets for reliable operation, too. It's all kept very

Playtrains is set to replace Hornby's Junior range, whose global sales between its Paddington and Express Train variants have totalled more than 40,000 units - it's a lucrative market. Not only is the new range promising more features and the possibility to expand, which its previous offering couldn't, it's also introducing the Hornby brand to a younger audience - its potential future client base. With a range promising much more fun than previous generations of train sets, that's surely a positive move.









The return of Dublo

Hornby Dublo is a brand name that the manufacturer recently revived as part of last year's 100th-anniversary range. Sales must have performed well because the manufacturer is introducing more models in retro packaging. Locomotives hark back to the origins of the manufacturer too, with die-cast bodies rather than injection-moulded plastic, making the models heavier and hence providing more tractive effort - useful for those with heavier or longer trains. Tenders remain injection-moulded in plastic, however, as per models in the latter days of Hornby Dublo, re-using existing tooling from Hornby's present range. Three locomotives are to be produced:

(R3918) Princess Coronation City Of Leicester

(R3970) Merchant Navy Elders Fyffes

(R3971) Merchant Navy General Steam Navigation

Expected to arrive first is the Coronation 'Pacific' in February 2021, followed by the two 'Merchants' around July. RRP is anticipated to be around £264.99, each.



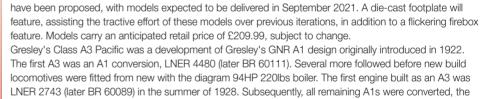




LNER P2 2-8-2

A surprise came as the manufacturer unveiled plans to re-tool its Railroad P2 2-8-2 locomotive Cock 'o The North - a less than seven-year-old model. This all-new model will cater for variants among the class, from new-build No. 2007 Prince of Wales, to No. 2002 Earl Marischal or streamlined No. 2003 Lord President. Models are expected late-2021, with an RRP of £209.99 each.

Their release to market is timely, considering that new-build P2 No. 2007 Prince of Wales is expected to hit the rails around the same time - coincidence?



New A1 and A3 4-6-2

last being 60068 in December 1948.



Ruston & Hornsby 88DS

Who could argue that Hornby's Ruston & Hornsby 48DS hasn't been popular? We've seen numerous layouts created around it. Small locomotives sell, hence this new addition to the range comes as no surprise the Ruston & Hornsby 88DS 0-4-0. Interestingly, this model - the larger cousin of the 48DS - isn't to be provided with a match truck. And, if its model of the 48DS is anything to go, we can expect it to carry many liveries over the coming years. However, in its launch year, we can look forward to the following, expected to arrive in July, 2021:

(R3894) North British Distillery Co. Ltd, 0-4-0, No. 4 (Era 6)

(R3895) 0-4-0, No. 3 (Era 11)

(R3896) 0-4-0, No. 84 (Era 6)

(R3897) 0-4-0, No. 20 (Era 7)

Other key products announced

- Maunsell dining saloon thirds and composites
- Mk. 4 coaching stock with DVTs
- An SR bogie luggage van
- Mk. 1 BCK

LNER steam locomotive fans have another model to look forward to – an all-new A1 and A3. Four variants

- A number of Railroad and Railroad plus items
- Stephenson's Rocket train pack



To see the full range of new announcements, visit www.rmweb.co.uk



BR 9F 2-10-0

Continuing the theme of powerful locomotives, Hornby is also re-visiting its Riddles 9F 2-10-0 locomotive, too. Models are catering for standard versions initially, though Hornby didn't rule out investigating Crosti-boilered variants, or those allocated to Tyne Dock and fitted with Westinghouse pumps to power the Tyne Dock-Consett iron ore wagons. Double chimney, single chimney and mechanical stoking variants are being made possible, with an impressive five variants of the BR.1 tender being catered for.

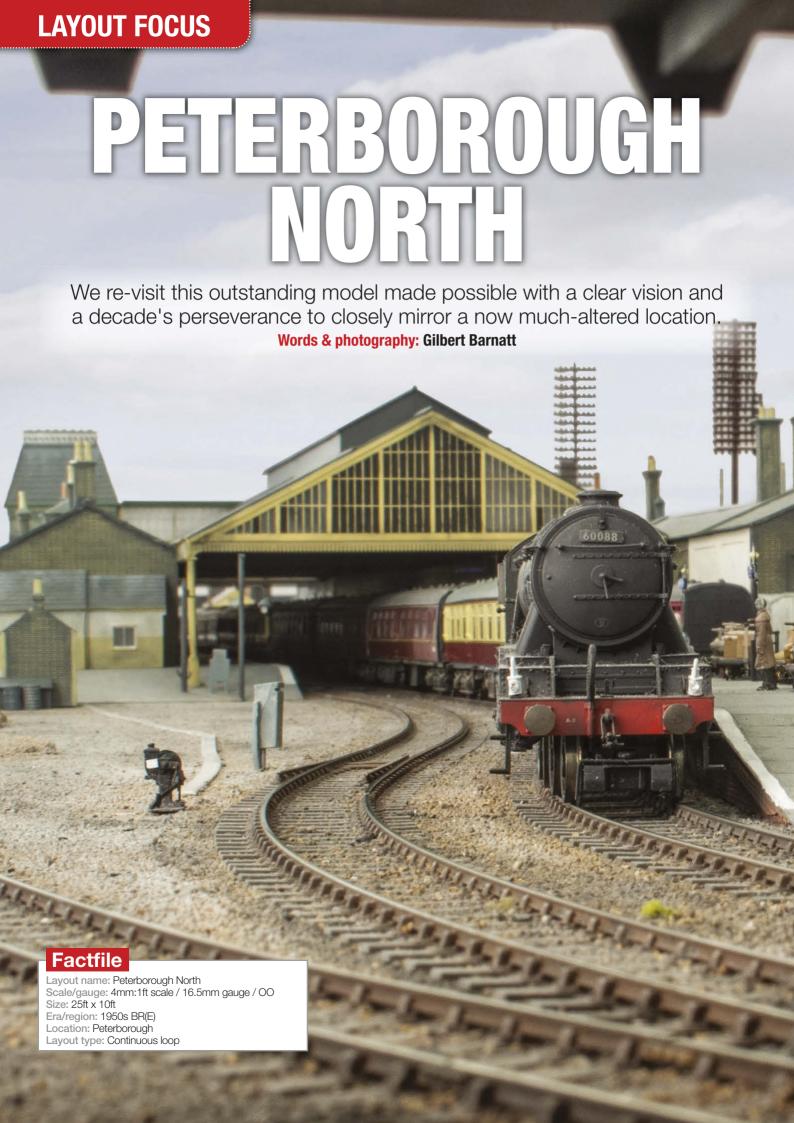


Hornby Announcements

Hornby seeks a younger audience with its new entry-level trainset designed for children aged 3 to 6.

WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE (You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)







LAYOUT FOCUS

y layout, a representation of Peterborough North as it was in the late 1950s, has appeared in BRM twice before, in 2014 and 2015. This year has seen a significant milestone, as it is now 10 years old. There have been quite a few developments in the last five years, so it is time for an update.

For me to keep the same layout for 10 years is very unusual, and for it still to be giving me the same pleasure and motivation as it did at the beginning, is even more so. 2020 has been a year of unprecedented challenge for all, particularly during lockdown. I live alone, by choice these days, and during seemingly endless days, I have realised more and more how my hobby, and specifically this layout, has helped me enormously in getting through those challenges.

What did I do this time that broke the previous long cycle of aborted or abandoned projects? Well, I decided exactly what I

wanted and why, drew up a rough scale plan to prove that I wasn't kidding myself as I have in the past, and concentrated hard on identifying precisely what must be included, and what I must avoid. I also banned the weasel words 'should' and 'ought'. This was for me, so all that mattered was what fitted in with my own parameters. This layout is 25ft long, space most people would love to have, and perhaps never will, but it isn't long enough to accommodate 'Peterborough North' accurately.

The distance between the two bridges at each end of the station is 30ft to scale, and I've still got to get approach curves in too. So, there is quite a lot of compression and some glaring anomalies. To the North, the main line runs dead straight, but I have a 3ft radius curve. At the other end, the real thing was on a gentle curve, but mine is far more severe. Mind you, how many of us have curves that are prototypical?

Within that 25ft, I could get in all

the main running lines, and the station platforms would be nearly as long as the prototype. I would be able to perform most of the movements that happened. Also, the location had sharp curves at each end after the bridges on the station side, and those would help me in fitting things in.

Now, I have quite a lot of plus points, and for me, they far outweigh the compression and the curves. You can't get any major ECML station to scale into a 25ft length, but this one isn't that far out, and I can comfortably put up with the minus points. End of story. Others may disagree, but the purpose of all this is to satisfy and entertain me. Realising that and accepting it is the reason for this layout's longevity.

Operating challenges

For those who haven't seen the previous articles, and who may not be familiar with the pre-1970s railway at Peterborough, a few recaps are in order, if only to show that it



was the real thing that was – to say the least – eccentric, rather than me.

The GNR wasn't the first railway to Peterborough. George Hudson, as in other places, got there first, and the Midland Railway's route from Leicester to Peterborough East station was in place to the West. The GN, therefore, had to squeeze into the space between the Midland running lines and the City on the other side. The result was a mess, which was not sorted out for well over a century. Thus, you will see only one platform face for Up trains on the ECML, and no access from the Up to either the bays on the Down side or to the far platform. There was an Up slow, but to

access it, trains had to cross the main lines at the north end thread through between the far island platform road and the Down slow, then cross both main lines again to get back to the Up, and eventually to an Up slow road.

The huge New England yards were almost all on the Up side, so although there was a Down slow road, it re-joined the main just before Spital Bridge, and then once again, all traffic for the yards had to cross the main lines, and block both. Add to that the 'dog's

leg' curves at each end between the bridges, which had a 20mph permanent speed restriction, and the result was an operating nightmare.

My expresses, if running non-stop, all have to run through very slowly, which at least gives plenty of time to observe them in detail. The original intention was that the two bridges, Crescent to the south and Spital to the north, would form the scenic breaks, and that everything else would be off scene. That is still what happens at the north end, but there's a bit more room to the south, and I couldn't resist adding some more detail there. It is incorrect, of course, because of the sharp curve, which shouldn't be, but it



LAYOUT FOCUS

allows the lovely Crescent Junction signal box to be included, and one or two other features as well.

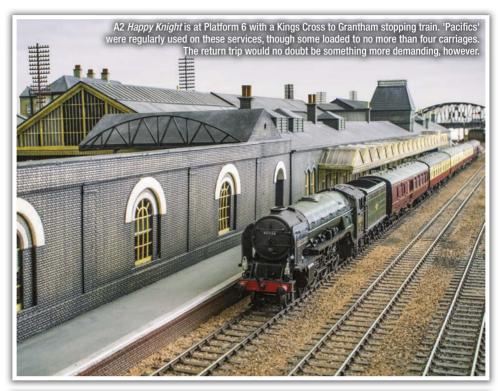
What is there still to be seen of this rather ramshackle and unfit for purpose stretch of railway? The two bridges are there, and the Great Northern Hotel, together with three buildings along the boundary on the Up side and to the north of the new station buildings. Everything else has gone. More efficient, but to me at least, pretty sterile.

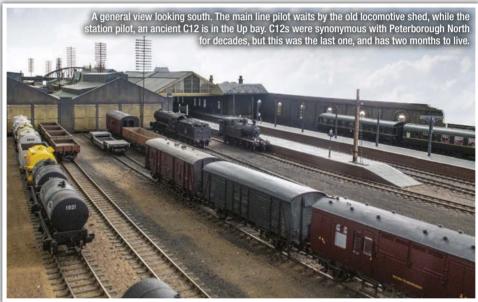
Progress update

Let's look at what has happened since 2014. By then all the track was in place, courtesy of the late Norman Saunders of Just Tracks, and Peter Leyland had completed the extremely complex job of making the station buildings and the gradually disintegrating overall roof. There remained a void on the Up side where the District Engineer's complex should be, and which would have to be filled. I was concerned, too, about the other side of the layout, which ended alongside the Down slow line. By this time, I had become interested in photographing the layout for my thread on RMweb, and felt there should be something there to provide a backdrop.

I'll deal with the Down side first. What was there in reality? Two very long and dead straight sidings, usually pretty full of goods stock, and behind those the Midland running lines. The other side of those was occupied by Spital Bridge shed and associated buildings, including a very tall Cenotaph coaling stage. I had no room for any of that, unfortunately, and even if I had, a totally impracticable width of baseboard would have been required. I had left 15in between baseboard edge and outside wall - enough to give access, albeit with a contortion or two, and a bit of a squeeze. Then it occurred to me that, if I could just put in those two long sidings and partly fill them with vans and wagons, I would have the ability to move them up and down to provide a backdrop when required. This would be purely static, so no need for wiring, or other complications. It would also need to be 4in wide, reducing the wiggle room available in most places to just 11in. The positive element was that it would also be a powerful incentive to keep my waistline under control!

We went ahead with this, and I reckon it was a good decision, but you can decide for yourselves from the images that accompany the article. A lot of thought has been given to making a scenic background along the far wall at the end where Spital Bridge shed





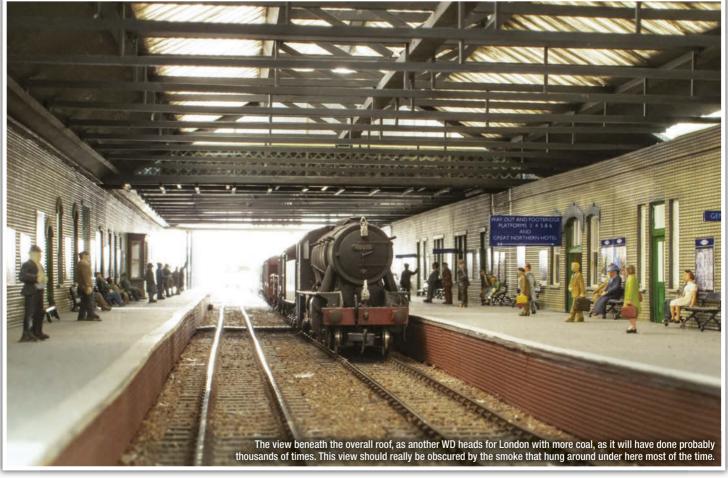
would have been visible, but that is on hold, as we haven't satisfactorily worked out how to make it look convincing from more than one angle.

Building work

Peter Leyland has also built new bridges for both ends of the layout. Spital Bridge is now much more like the real thing, and the replacement Crescent Bridge has been extended, and is a considerable improvement. Behind it, I couldn't resist adding more detail. The signal box is from the prototype, but a tranship shed, which on the real thing would have been on the straight, now curves quite a lot. I've also included more buildings under and beyond the bridge, guesswork to a degree, as not many photographs of that area have been found, but I feel that it adds atmosphere.

We also needed to include the complex of buildings on the east side of the running lines at the north end, which, by the 1950s, were occupied by the District Engineer's department. The building nearest the main lines was fairly straightforward because it appears in many photographs, or at least one side of it does. Behind that were several more, all long gone, and of which I had found just one close up image. I had many more taken from the platforms on the Down side, but what could be seen varied considerably depending on the photographer's position. This caused a lot

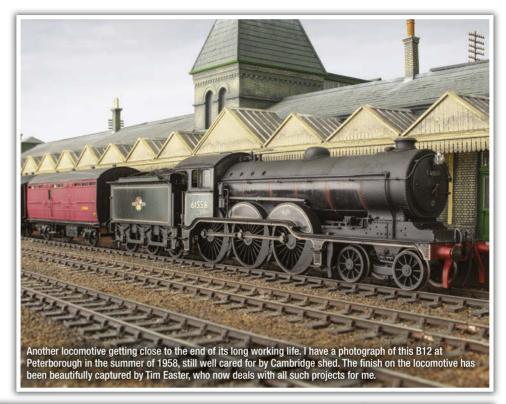




of head scratching and a realisation that I could not hope to accurately reproduce the original.

Behind railway property ran Westwood Street, and the two were separated by a high wall, above which the upper storeys of houses and a pub could be seen. I needed to use that as a backdrop, and I had a maximum of 22 inches in which to do it. That resulted in a lot of experimentation with forced perspective, mocked up 2mm low relief terraces, and one or two other ideas. In the end, with Peter's considerable help, I settled on what can be seen now. It works best when viewed from rail height, but overall, I think it gives a reasonable effect, so I'm happy with the result.

So, on the scenic side of the layout, that is what has happened since 2015, and I'm pleased to say that it has all achieved what I hoped it would. There's still plenty of small detail to work on, though, which I'm sure I'll get round to, eventually.





What we think...

The measure of success of a model of a prototype location is how well the model stacks up against the real thing when it's completed. Despite Gilbert and his team compressing distances within the model (and there has to be a limit to the world modelled), we think that this comparison shot from Crescent Bridge shows how successful it appears.

In Ben Brooksbank's picture is the view northward from Crescent Bridge towards Grantham and the North. On the left is platform six where we see the rear of the last coach, while the Up Class E freight, headed by BR 9F 2-10-0 92041 (built 12/54, withdrawn 8/65) is occupying the only Up Through platform line at the station.

Gilbert's image shows 92188, a Bachmann 9F, on a similar Up mineral working. It is only the absence of the rear portions of the Great Northern Hotel and the area around Station Road that initially betray the difference between model and reality.





Final thoughts

Putting this in writing has really brought home to me how many benefits accrue from having a hobby. I have a passion for the steam age railway, which I can express through it, and it occupies time in a positive and creative way. It has – and still is – getting me to experience new skills. All that applied when life was normal. Over these unprecedented last nine months, it has been a lifeline.

There have also been developments on the other side of the layout, the fiddle yard and ancillaries. They are part of my project to create a sequence of trains through 'Peterborough North' which are, as near as I can make them, correct for the summer of 1958. Hopefully, there will be a further article dealing with that in the near future. My parents were both very keen amateur photographers, members of the Royal Society in fact, so I grew up with darkrooms, chemicals and the like. Some of their knowledge must have rubbed off on me, so I bought a decent camera, a Canon G12, and started taking photographs that I could share on RMweb. Very soon I also decided that I'd like to at least be able to put a sky background behind them, and so I had to acquire a new skill, photoshopping. There's an advantage of a hobby straight away – learning a new skill at quite an advanced age.

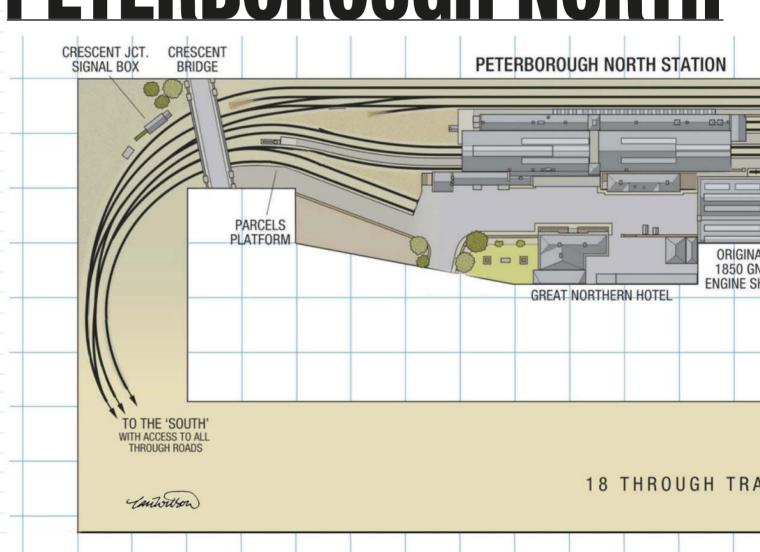
I've made a lot of friends through RMweb. Some I have had the pleasure of meeting, and who have visited and watched things falling off, while many others I shall probably never see in person. The great advantage has been in motivation to use the layout regularly, record what goes on, and post it for others to enjoy, which a gratifying number seem to do. My parents talked a lot about the composition of scenes for photography, and that has helped me

a great deal in getting the angles and assessing what and where to crop.

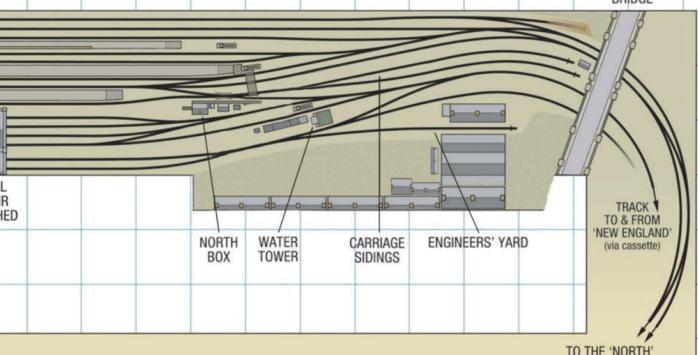
So, what about the challenges? Well, there's a bit of physical pain when squeezing into confined spaces to get different angles, but the main one is signals. Why did the LNER have to choose lattice posts? They can take an absolute age to deal with, and when three get superimposed one on the other, as can happen at the north end, they are beyond my level of skill. Then there are the many things, poles, signals water cranes etc, which like to grow out of the chimneys of locomotives, and which I sometimes don't notice until after the photograph has been taken. Those, of course, are also the pictures which otherwise have come out very well. With a small camera, you get a small viewing screen, and my vision isn't what it used to be, so when I've crammed myself into a corner, and sometimes even when I haven't, these things go unnoticed. Overall, photography and the processing of images is another big plus.

Trackplan

PETERBOROUGH NORTH







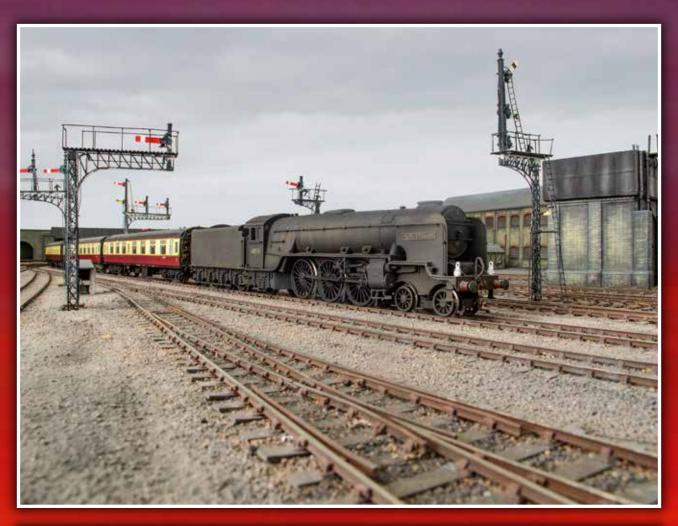
TO THE 'NORTH' WITH ACCESS TO ALL THROUGH ROADS

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HOW TO... WEATHER A HELJAN GLASS 07

Words & photography: Michael Russell

Michael Russell's patina masterclass on this six-coupled workhorse of British Rail's Southern Region and later, private industry, is a lesson in creative ingenuity.



here is no doubt that weathering is the key to producing a realistic model. Even low-cost, entry-level products with little detail can look very presentable, if treated properly. Personally, I would rather have one really well weathered locomotive than 100 out the box unweathered ones. It's a matter of quality, not quantity. It takes time to produce a good weathering job and requires some practice.

The Heljan Class 07 is a beautiful model, intricately detailed and is strong because of its excellent build quality. Even the version I weathered, with all that extra pipework, is simple to work on as the body comes off in

You can perform as few or as many of the steps I give depending on the finish you desire. If you only carry out a limited amount of weathering on your locomotive, I would suggest fading the paintwork. This will make a huge difference and will immediately make the model look less toy-like.

I have chosen to depict a locomotive that is in regular use, but is kept outside and so subject to the full effect of the British weather. This is the typical condition of many shunters.

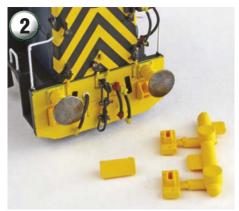
You can use acrylic or enamels to carry out your weathering, but I would recommend acrylic paints simply because of their fast drying time.

If it dries too quickly, and clogs the nozzle on your airbrush, add a drop of retarder.

Preparation



Even if your model is fresh from the box, it is still a good idea to check it for dirt and debris. Look out for stray hairs and errant glue. Use tweezers and a brush to remove offending detritus.



Whatever couplings you fit, it is a good idea before weathering to fit the buffer beam blanking plates that are supplied in the accessory bag. Cut them from the sprue, file true and press them into place.

SHOPPING LIST

Heljan

(29141) Class 07 v2 D2989

Maskol, Matt Cote (AC5601), Enamels (33) Black, (34) White, (74) Linen, (121) Pale Stone

W www.humbrol.com

Lifecolor

Dust and Rust Diorama set, Tensocolor set 2, Black Rubber Shades set

W www.airbrushes.com

Vallejo

Rust, Stain and Streaking set

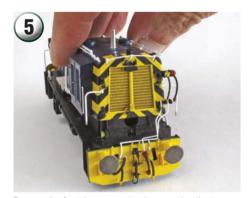
W www.scalemodelshop.co.uk



Remove the two screws holding the keeper plate in place and lift it away. Use a container to hold the small parts while you work on the project.



Remove the chassis link by pulling the shaft end gently with your thumbnails. Lift away the wheels. Add a small dab of Maskol to the ends of each of the six electrical pick-ups where they contact the wheels.



Remove the front bonnet section by removing the two screws from underneath, behind the buffer beam. Ease the handrails out of their retaining holes. Lift the bonnet gently, being careful not to damage pipework.



Remove the cab section by gently waggling it from side to side while pulling in an upward direction. It isn't glued and should come away easily. Remove the rear bonnet section in the same way as the front.



Cut masking tape to cover over the mechanism, circuit board and LEDs. The superstructure under the front bonnet section now provides a secure handgrip while you carry out weathering. Use toilet roll inserts as handles for the bonnets.

Top tip: paint mixing

It is important that you mix paint well before using it. This is especially important with varnish. Wherever possible, use a broad spatula, such as a lollipop stick, to mix the paint until any solid matter at the bottom has completely dispersed. If the paint is in a dispenser where this isn't possible, agitate the bottle vigorously using a whisk motion for at least 30 seconds.

I don't have an airbrush

Not everyone has room for an airbrush and many modellers dislike the cleaning up required after using them. Without one, you can still replicate many of the techniques illustrated. Weathering powders require a matt finish for good adhesion. Apply these in small amounts and work each application well before judging if you need to add more. Seal your model with a matt varnish, but note that this may alter the finish slightly.

PRACTICAL BRM

Method



The pick-ups are bright and stand out even behind the wheels. Brush them with matt black enamel paint. Note the masking tape to protect the mechanism.



To fade the paintwork, spray the entire model with Matt Cote with a drop of (121) Pale Stone enamel paint added. It is better to add multiple layers rather than overdo the effect with too heavy a coating



Finish the buffers with a dark rust colour, such as Vallejo Dark Rust, and a ring of oil made with a permanent black marker pen. Tone down the effect with a light rust colour such as Vallejo Orange Brown.



For finer rust spots, flick Vallejo Dark Rust at the model using a toothbrush and a blunt instrument to draw the bristles back. Practise on scrap paper first. Be very careful not to overdo this effect



I decided to darken the front grille to simulate the ingress of dirt from the fan draft. Spray with matt black acrylic. Touch up missing white from handrails and pipes with white enamel 34.



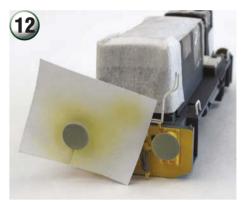
Use a cotton bud and thinners to wipe off the overspray from the cab glazing. Use a clean cotton bud to remove the thinners before it dries.



Use Quickshade Soft Tone to highlight panel recesses and detail. Apply with a brush and wipe off excess. Work in small areas as this product dries fast.



To avoid monotony, add variety to the rust spots by touching in lighter rust and off-black colours to the patches you already added. I used Lifecolor Vulcanised Rubber and Rust Base Color.



Make a mask from a piece of paper with a slit cut in it to prevent overspray on the buffer beam. Slide this into place, then spray each buffer a coat of (74) Linen.



Use a dark brown, such as Vallejo Dark Rust, to add rust spots to the model. Concentrate on panel edges and places where the paint would be damaged such as around couplings. Use a sponge or a paint brush.



Imitate paint chips on handrails by adding random marks with a permanent black marker pen. Ensure the marks go all the way round the handrails. Add more marks on areas of the handrail that would see the most use



Spray the wheels and frames with a dark brown such as Vallejo Black Brown. Wipe excess off the coupling rods leaving deposits around the bosses to represent oil.



Dust the frames, brake rigging, couplings and wheels with a bright rust colour, such as Vallejo Orange Brown, to represent brake dust. I also gave the cab roof a



Spray the exhaust pipe with Vallejo Orange Brown and dust a very light coat over the bodywork, the pipework and handrails to blend the effects together. This is a working locomotive, so don't overdo the effect.



Light marks were present on the wheels and roof and so I add small amounts of an off white (Lifecolor dust type 1). Be careful not to overdo this effect.



To represent spilled fuel, I brushed on Lifecolor Tensocrom Kerosene on the bodywork below the filler cap on the rear bonnet.



When dry, carefully reassemble the model. The front pipework can be a challenge. I took a piece off, fitted the bonnet and then stuck the pipework back on with cyanoacrylate glue. Clean the wheel rims and remove the Maskol.





Weathering top tips

Looking for more realistic rolling stock? Phil Parker provides some top weathering tips for wagons in this latest video.

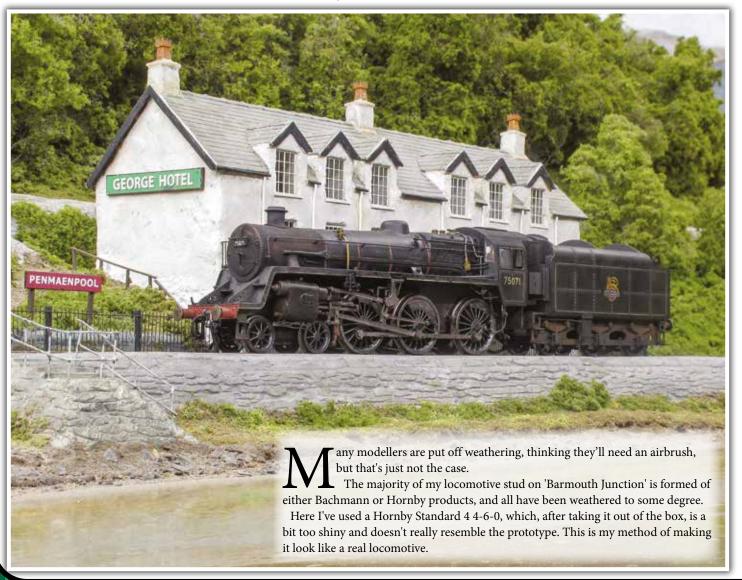
WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE (You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



HOW TO... WEATHER A HORNBY STANDARD 4 LOCOMOTIVE

Words & Photography: Geoff Taylor

Famed for his scenic layout, 'Barmouth Junction', professional model-maker, Geoff Taylor, offers a step-by-step guide for weathering Hornby's Standard 4, 4-6-0 locomotive.



SHOPPING LIST

- Precision (P981) Dirty Black
- Railmatch (402) Frame Dirt
- Humbrol (33) Black
- Humbrol (62) Matt Leather
- Reeves Black Powder paint
- Thinners
- PVA glue
- Real coal



The following day, I carry out a black wash over the rest of the body and tender, mixing a small amount of Humbrol Black with some thinners. This will make the shiny plastic duller and put surface details on it, like water marks. You don't want too much black in the mix; if in doubt, only use a small amount first, then add more if you think the mix is too thin.



A second coat of the Dirty Black can be put on the cab roof, smokebox and tender roof. While the paint is still wet, stipple some Reeves Powder paint and blow gently to remove any excess. The following day, the powder can be very gently brushed to further reduce the amount on the parts.



I paint the chassis of both the tender and locomotive in Railmatch (402) Frame Dirt, and some slightly-thinned (402) is painted on the buffer beams. In most cases it's best to do one paint job and leave it until the following day before painting anything else, but if you are careful and don't touch the chassis, you can then paint the cab roof, smokebox, inside the cab and the tender roof at the same time. For this I use Precision (P981) Dirty Black.



The next stage is to take Humbrol (62) Matt Leather and dry-brush over the tender sides, tender back, cylinders and chassis. This will give a slight rust look to the model. Put a small amount of the paint on a piece of scrap card, lightly touch the paint with the brush and almost wipe it off on the card, so you have a minute amount on the brush. Lightly paint this on the parts needed. If you've put too much paint on, wipe it off with some kitchen towel or use thinners painted on the parts needed.



On the Hornby model, the pipes are too bright and need to be more subdued. Again, the black wash is used.



The wheels and motion are now painted with Railmatch (415) Oily Steel. Don't put too much paint on the parts that need to be free for running. I always test the locomotive on the track after I've painted the motion parts to make sure it runs OK.



A small amount of rust powder is put on a piece of scrap card and the smallest amount is picked up by the brush before lightly brushing in a downwards stroke on the smokebox, cylinders and springs on the tender. Obviously, you can put more on if you want the locomotive to look well-worn and rusty, which most of them did towards the end of steam.



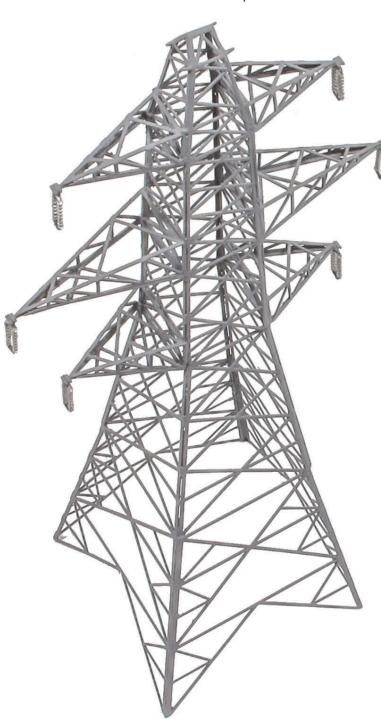
A plastic coal part comes with the model, so I glue that in place and fill gaps with kitchen roll and glue them in. Once the glue has dried, paint the kitchen roll with black paint in case the coal doesn't cover it. I also use real coal and crush bits up to make suitable sized pieces for this. A thick layer of PVA is put in the tender and the coal dropped in. This may take some time to get right and you might need a few more drops of PVA until you are satisfied. Small bits of coal can be dropped in to go between the larger lumps. Let this dry overnight and then you can tip the tender upside down to let any loose bits of coal fall out. Job done.



HOW TO... BUILD A PYLON

Words & photography: Phil Parker

Giant temples of metal or hideous blots on the landscape? Phil Parker shares useful etched metalwork techniques with a Severn Models electricity pylon kit.



ylons are one of the most recognisable symbols of the UK's electricity network. Throughout the countryside, they are either seen as a blot on the landscape or a vital feature of the modern world depending on your viewpoint.

Model pylons aren't common. Perhaps we like to imagine our miniature worlds without ugly structures? I suspect it's mainly because of the difficulty of taking a complex structure and rendering it to scale. These are very clean and precise designs that demand clean and precise model making and they are difficult to build.

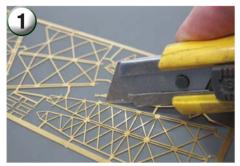
It doesn't help that pylons are tall anywhere between 50 and 180ft for most, unless you want to model the 580ft tall monster at Thurrock. While ready-to-use versions have been available from Hornby, among others, the spindly designs don't lend themselves well to injection-moulded plastic. Metal is a better option.

Unless you are keen enough to scratchbuild, it's time to find a pylon kit and here the selection is limited. I'm building one from Severn Models in etched brass for N gauge layouts. I have asked about a 4mm version, but the price would be high because of the large sheets of metal required. The designer, Andy Vaughan, just laughs when O gauge is suggested...

The kit is simple to build if you understand the correct ways to bend the pieces up from flat, so that's what I've concentrated on here. Each section of the tower is etched in two halves, which are brought together to form the 3D model. As long as your bends are crisp, and parts don't get mangled before assembly, you can't go

If you haven't worked with etched metal before, it's no different to assembling a card kit. Bends are marked with lines etched on the surface, and those lines should be on the inside of the bend. As well as showing you where it is and making the bend easier to form, they keep it in the right place so you don't twist the surrounding metal.

The kit is designed for assembly with superglue, but I prefer to solder. As well as being faster, the joint is slightly stronger. That said, the pylons I've handled on the Severn Models exhibition stand didn't feel



Parts are supplied on a pair of identical etched sheets. Each piece will need to be removed carefully by cutting through retaining tabs holding it in place. A large, sharp knife on a rubber cutting mat are my tools of choice for this job. The tabs are half etched to make them easier to cut and you can get the blade close to the piece you want to remove. Leave parts on the fret until you need them.



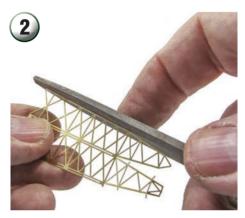
Engineers will prefer a robust set of bending bars. Fitted into a large vice, these clamp the metal along the bend line. The part being bent still needs to be supported, but you can be confident of a straight bend. Prices and designs vary, so search tool vendors for one that suits



All Severn Models kits are designed to be assembled using glue, but for etched brass, I prefer solder, partly as it's a lot quicker. With such spindly parts, one issue is that vigorously cleaning flux off the metal in the sink might cause damage, so I'm using non-corrosive liquid flux designed for electrical work. You need to be quicker with it than paste fluxes because the liquid evaporates fast, but with a bit of practice, this isn't a problem

any weaker than my version, so perhaps I'm just old-fashioned!

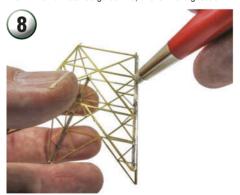
Construction time was a fairly relaxed few hours, plus a few minutes for spray painting using a can of car primer aerosol. How many you require is up to you, but the average distance between pylons in the UK is 1200ft. so most of us won't need to fill our layouts with these metal monsters.



To remove each tiny leftover bit of tab, file along the edge of the part. Try to avoid working across the metal as this increases the chance of bending it - although a little finger pressure will usually unbend it again if required.



For the occasional kit builder, a pair of cheap steel rules will be perfectly adequate for the bends required in this model. They should be clamped in a vice, and care taken to ensure the top edges are aligned, but this method served me well for many locomotive kits over several years. The limitation is that the ends of the rule beyond the edge of the vice won't be clamped properly but for kits with a half-etched guide line, this isn't a big issue.



Each joint is smoothed with a fine abrasive stick, then polished with a fibreglass pencil. The trick to making neat joints is to use the minimum amount of solder, letting the flux and heat make it run where it's wanted. Most beginners put too much solder on, leading to more involved cleaning up. As long as the metal is clean, hot solder will flow

SHOPPING LIST

Severn Models

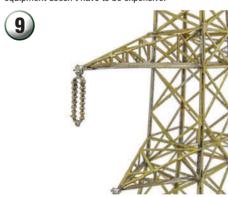
(N14) Electricity Pylon P.O. Box 785. Broselev. TF7 9FT W www.severnmodels.com



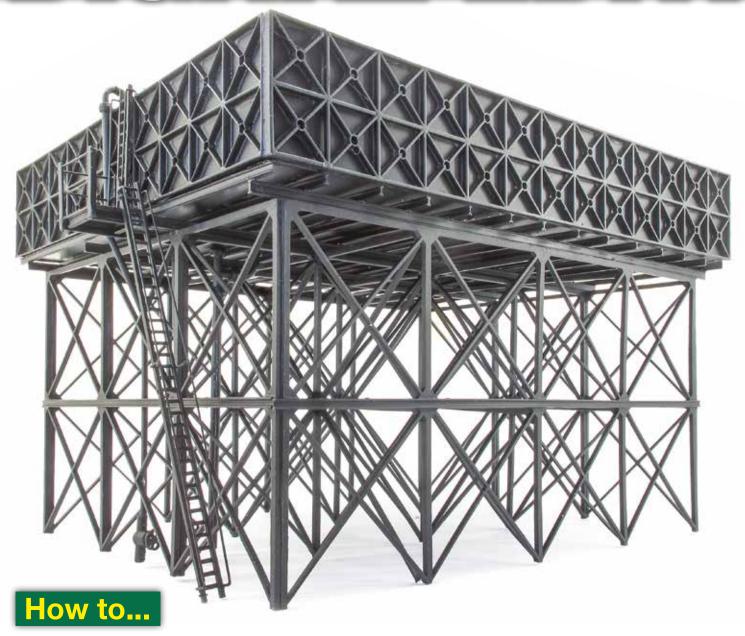
All the fine pieces have to be bent to form the pylon shape and there are many ways to do this. The top-ofthe-line solution is a 'hold and fold' device. The metal is clamped under the aluminium former. Support the whole length of the piece with a rule, so it doesn't twist, and the bend is simple to make. The 'hold and fold' can be reversed, so the tongues are in the forming area, helping with smaller pieces. The device is an investment, but you should only ever need to buy one.



Smaller bends can easily be handled with pliers. I prefer square-ended versions with flat jaws but other shapes have their uses. They cost me £1 when I brought them years ago and I've not worn them out yet. Model-making equipment doesn't have to be expensive.



The biggest challenge in the build is laminating the three layers of brass making up the insulators. It's an area where using glue is easier. However, I simply tinned both sides of the middle layer, cover them with flux and pushed the facing layers on with a hot iron. This worked because they are small and allowing all the metal to be brought up to temperature so the solder runs



DESIGN AND BUILD A WATER TOWER

Andy York creates a large and intricate water tower from scratch for a forthcoming layout project. Research and planning was key, as he explains.

or a Great War layout based on the short-lived Cannock Chase Military Railway I'm planning to build, a friend and I were looking at a looming deadline and a complex water tower structure.

We decided to explore laser-cutting to give a speedier result than traditional, styrene or brass construction. Although primary research material is available, we found that scaling down the model tower was necessary to avoid overpowering the rest of the layout. The model we devised now better fits the space available and I'm pleased with the near-finished model.

I made some mistakes in the design, but these were rectified at the building stage. It proved an interesting exercise for my first time having bespoke laser-cut parts made. The cost is higher than styrene or brass sections, but it was assembled faster with consistent and tidy results.

Research and reference material



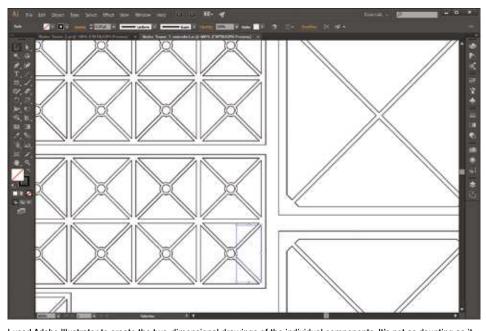
Local postcards were produced for the troops at Cannock Chase to send home. They've been an invaluable reference source for the project. This panoramic view of the heathland camp shows the water tower high above the surrounding buildings.



After the war the camp was cleared and the water tower was re-configured and moved to Sedgley Beacon between Wolverhampton and Dudley. This picture gave us the size and style of panels along with information on the bracing and girder supports for the tank.

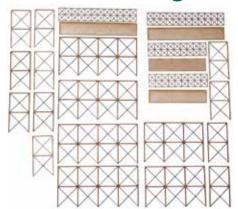


The concrete pads onto which the water tower legs were once bolted still exist, which gave us a measurement of 12ft centres for the supports.



I used Adobe Illustrator to create the two-dimensional drawings of the individual components. It's not as daunting as it first appears. This model has a lot of simple geometry which is duplicated. Free software such as Inkscape can be used as an alternative and support is available on RMweb for 3-D printing and laser-cutting.

Laser-cutting

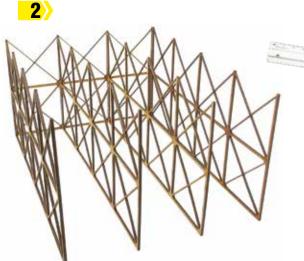


The drawings were sent to Intentio, a 3-D laser-cutting firm. Its owner is on RMweb under the username 'BrushType4' (see also intentio.co.uk) with a topic showing many projects that he has undertaken. I specified 1.5mm MDF as the material for this. In hindsight, 1mm MDF would be finer. I'm pleased with the quality of the cutting and the speed of turn-around. If you've designed parts you shouldn't need instructions, but it's worth a dry run before getting too far ahead.

Assembly



Assembly starts by joining a long side and an end of the supporting ironwork. PVA glue takes too long to set. Other adhesives were tried on test pieces, but I settled on thick grade Expo superglue which holds in 10-15 seconds. Clothes pegs are useful to hold parts.



The remaining long sections are glued to the end piece with the thicker upright sections butted to each other.

At the design stage I hadn't given consideration to the width of the intermediate ironwork pieces, and it was necessary to cut off the upright sections leaving the horizontal and diagonal trusses.



Each intermediate section on the ironwork is attached to a neighbouring upright section, one side at a time to guarantee precise positioning.

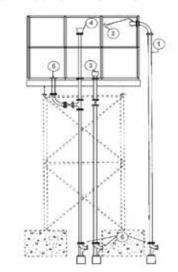


Once the single intermediate sections are glued, the other end can be glued to make the structure square.



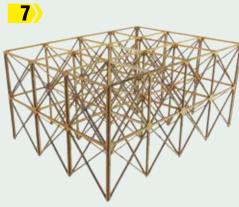
I couldn't resist the temptation to test the structural integrity of the frame once dry. Just 22g of MDF happily supports 1.6kg of tins!

What's inside a water tower?

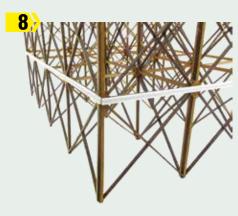


The manufacturer Braithwaites has produced steel water tanks since the 1920s in Newport, South Wales. It kindly supplied reference diagrams showing the functional parts of a water tower.

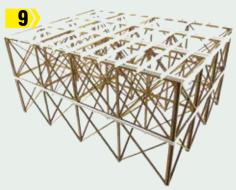
- 1 Rising main inlet pipe
- 2 Ballcock
- 3 Outlet pipe
- 4 Overflow with coned top
- 5 Washout pipe
- 6 Valves and stopcocks



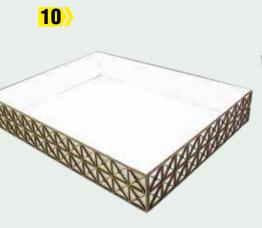
Once the single intermediate sections are glued, the other end can be glued to make the structure square.



U-section plastic strip (2 x 1mm) is glued to the horizontal truss halfway up the sides.

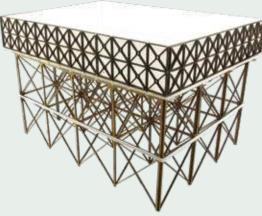


H-section plastic strips (3 x 2mm) are glued to the long sides of the ironwork to form longitudinal beams. H-section plastic strips (2.5 x 2mm) are then glued across the beams to form lateral supports.



I had designed the tank panels one panel short in each direction, so each side and end was lengthened using waste material. These panel frets were glued onto 0.030in plastic sheet, cut to size, and a suitable bottom was cut for the tank accordingly.

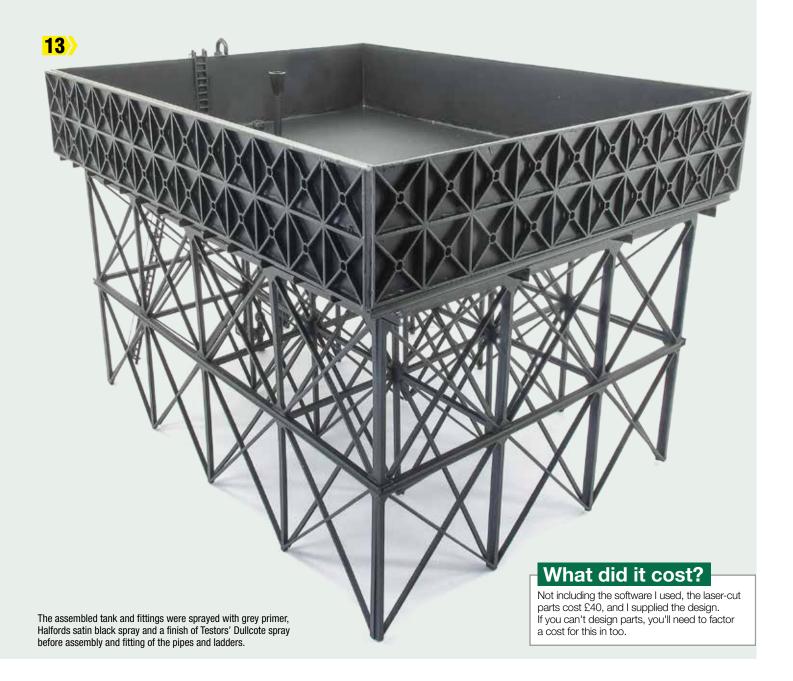
<mark>11</mark>>



The water tank is test-mounted onto the supporting ironwork to ensure everything is square and level.

Inlet and outlet pipes with valves and junctions

Inlet and outlet pipes with valves and junctions were created from Knightwing's UN3 pipe set. Ladders are 1:100 scale from Plastruct using 0.5mm brass wire. Slaters' Plastikard treadplate sheet is cut to make the platform.





KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Q&A, LETTERS and PROJECTS

SNIP CAREFULLY



I received the latest BRM via Pocketmags and found your BRM TV video on scratch-building in brass. Well done. As this is obviously aimed at encouraging first-timers, I thought that you might like to pass on to these same people a tip that I was taught way back in 1961 in metalwork at school. I know, I am an old fart!

Never close the jaws of tin snips fully when making a long cut in any sheet metal. Close the jaws most of the way, then open them up, move the tin snips forward and continue, otherwise it will leave a series of nicks along the edge of the cut metal. A simple step, but it can save a lot of cleaning and frustration.

Michael Causer

Howard Smith replies: Hello Michael, thank you for sharing this, you're right, not fully closing the snips prevents the metal from being distorted at the end of a cut as it wraps around the jaws. Occasional sharpening of tin snips with a series of wet stones to guarantee a very sharp edge is also a good tip, particularly if the jaws have been misused for cutting hardened-steel wire as supplied with slow-action point motors, for instance. These same minor nicks in the blades can prove equally troublesome when striving for clean cuts in materials.

Though metalwork and woodwork were being phased out by my time in UK education, I have fond memories of the lessons and my creations – far better than home economics in which I successfully destroyed a Pyrex dish by placing it on the hob!

HELPFUL HINTS

I hope you had a relaxing and happy Christmas, despite all the restrictions. This is simply a note to say how much I appreciated your 'paint bodging' in the January 2021 episode of BRM TV. It's so timely – I have just started to paint buildings and scenic items for my layout. Hints and tips like this are so good at teaching me how to do things much better than what would otherwise be the case!

Just a thought – how to clean DCC-equipped locomotive wheels without a fancy kit, or the cleaning and lubrication of very elderly Tri-ang/ Hornby rolling stock wheels would be a useful for me. Grubby rolling stock wheels on my nice new track are dirtying the new locomotive wheels!

Nick Pollard

FOCUS STACKING



Your January editorial includes a plea for amateur photographers with layouts nearing completion to contact you. That's me!

My 'Astbury Junction' layout is N gauge with BR early crest steam, set in an urban environment. It's inspired by the former Cheshire Lines Committee, which allows me to run a mix of ex-LNER and LMS, although the scenery is more Peak District. I've modelled a main line junction, which allows me to fit a station within the limits of a dumbbell layout. All stock – except some of the Union Mills locomotives – is weathered.

I saw Andy York describe the focus stacking technique at your first virtual show, which I now use all the time. Here's one of my recent 'shots' of a Union Mills G2.

Jules Attard



AROUND THE TREE

I used the second lockdown for a new project – I've always wanted a train running around my Christmas tree, and with all the extra time this year it was the ideal time to get one built. I went a little bit further than the circle of track around the carpet, and even ballasted the track! The fake snow is upholstery stuffing and has a string of coloured LEDs inside for added interest, and the trees and snowmen dotted around are cake decorations. There's also one other thing I've always wanted on a layout but have never been able to have because my layouts have always needed to be stored against a wall – a bridge!

Thanks for the entertainment and enjoyment your magazine has given throughout this bizarre year – every issue dropped through the letterbox has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated!

Steve Newman











DIE-HARD MODELLING

Magazine cycles and websites are pretty unforgiving, but the BRM team put our feet up - briefly - over the Christmas period. We were curious to what you were doing and discover how many die-hard modellers were among us, creating miniature marvels on Christmas Day. So, we asked our followers on social media.

Whether escaping the children, in-laws, passing skills on to a younger generation in your 'bubble', or, even if you spent the day on your own, we hope you found serenity with your modelling this festive season. Here's a selection of your Christmas Day modelling:



Finished the Christmas village last night. Chris Jones



Roofing my barn in 1:43 scale. William Wade



Found this dusty long-forgotten HO scale Alco RS-11 from my US railroading days in the garage, which I have taken indoors to restore. John Upton



Making some gates. Andrew Capell



Making a start on another four houses. **Robert Latham**



Still working on my Superquick fire station project.

Nigel Powton



I've got the N gauge Thomas and Percy from Bachmann running for my niece, so that will do me! **Paul Begg**



YOU Tube /humbrol 🏏 @humbrol 🕴 /humbrol



HARTLEY POOLE TOO

Richard Hart shares his journey from reticent exhibitor to serial model railway exhibitionist with his latest layout soon to be launched in a post-Covid world.



ome BRM readers will recall seeing my first layout 'Hartley Poole' in the February 2019 edition of the magazine and at some of the exhibitions it attended. It was never intended that 'Hartley Poole' would be exhibited, and it certainly wasn't designed that way. I wasn't exactly dragged screaming into exhibiting, but it was neither my aim or aspiration until chums at the Alsager Railway Association (ARA) persuaded me. At that stage, 'Hartley Poole' comprised of one board of 5ft 2in x 2ft 2in. By the time of its retirement in 2020, it had grown piecemeal to 22ft x 4ft.

While I eventually learned how to enjoy exhibiting, and was gratified by the numerous awards 'Hartley Poole' garnered, the logistics of setting up and dismantling the layout were a pain. Despite making several improvements, we never succeeded in being ready for the public in much under four hours and we could still be loading the van to come home an hour after other exhibitors had left.

Nevertheless, I had been bitten by the exhibition bug and, while I was ready to retire the layout, I wasn't ready to retire myself. I had become an exhibition junkie. Indeed, between operating my own layout and those of the ARA and other members' layouts, I was clocking up around 20 weekends away each year. Periods my wife Jane calls her 'quality time' - something we both lament in lockdown!

Early specification

I decided to design and build a layout expressly for exhibitions; one that would be smaller, straight-forward to erect and dismantle, uncomplicated to operate, but still hopefully entertain. My working title was Kismate: 'Keep it Simple Mate'. I was attracted to the notion of a power station with a merry-go-round but, as all my rolling stock was pre-nationalisation GWR, this would mean an unfeasible outlay in buying correct era locomotives and wagons, plus passing trains to add diversity.

It was then I happened across a 1940s photograph of Newton Abbot power station with its camouflaged cooling tower. It occurred to me that, if I set the layout during the war, I could have a power station with a camouflaged cooling tower, and save a small fortune by re-cycling my GWR stock, despite ARA colleagues berating me for sticking to the notion of a merry-go-round well before its time. Remember 'rule one' of modelling, "it's my layout and I'll decide what goes on it", even if it is anarchy - a complete curse to purists.

Subsequently, I have come to realise what a false economy this was. I shouldn't really



use my Sir Nigel Gresley or Flying Scotsman, as they would have been in wartime black; my 14XX locomotives and auto-coaches would have still been 48XXs; my Garth Hall wouldn't have yet been oil fired and my SR 'Merchant Navy' 'Spam Can' Belgian Marine wasn't built until 1945. This was going to stretch modellers' licence more than somewhat.

Undaunted, I pressed ahead. Another economy measure was to re-use two sections of the subframe and folding legs, which measured 8ft 4in x 2ft 11in. This would determine the dimensions of the new layout. which seemed to be just right, and the 1m height had always been appreciated by wheelchair users.

The baseboard

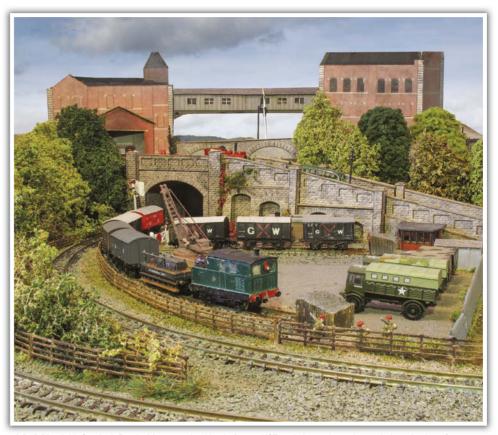
With transportation in mind, I decided on four 6mm thick ply boards of 2ft 1in x 2ft 11in, which could be paired up with protective end boards for carrying. Experience suggested, instead of the usual 2in x 1in planed square edge (PSE) frames for the top boards, I should go for 3in x 1in PSE. In addition to extra strength, the greater depth offers more protection for under-board electronics such as Dapol signal motors. Although the boards sit on the sub-frames, I asked my friend, John Cox, to insert tongue and groove joints to the interfacing crossbeams to ensure a good board-joint fit once the track was laid. In fact, they are such a good fit that at home I only attach them together with spring clamps, but at shows, I will use 6mm bolts and wing nuts.

The folding sub-frames are made from 2in x 1in PSE with hinged diagonal struts of 1in square. For exhibitions, these are bolted into permanently-fixed pronged 6mm T-nuts with M6 hex bolts using an Allen key. This was one of the time-saving innovations introduced for 'Hartley Poole'.

The subframe has 14ft 2in of Velcro around the front and two ends to enable me to attach an old curtain to cover belowboard junk. In addition, I have bought four pieces of 2ft 1in x 5in Perspex sheets to screw to the front of the scenic boards for protection at shows.

Trackwork

I tend to use Peco's flexible Code 80 track as I own several older locomotives with large flanges, which can bind on the finer Code 55, although the latter looks much better. My track is laid on cork strips, which



A P&D Marsh kit Sentinel, fitted with a motorised bogie from a HST, and shunter's truck marshal a selection of gunpowder vans, guarded by redcap MPs.



A Union Mills Collett Goods approaches the coal unloading shed with a rake of Dapol wagons on the merry-go-round. The 'same' train will emerge from behind the pylon, laden with waste ash.

Rolling Stock and motive power

I have recently purchased and downloaded the exhibitor's version of the Model Train Catalogue into which I have entered all my locomotives (but not yet rolling stock).

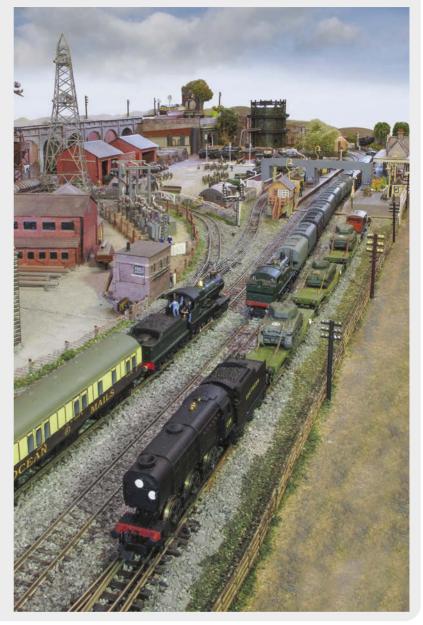
It seems that, over the years. I have acquired some 54 steam and seven diesel locomotives. All the latter are GWR 'Banana' railcars, passenger and express parcels. Some of these are Farish originals, some are Farish bodies into which I have added Tomytec motorised chassis, which I also fitted to a Langley white metal kit with vinyl panels, and a BH Enterprises 3D-printed model, painted for me by weathering expert, Andy Small.

The steam locomotives come from a variety of manufactures; Farish (17), Dapol (22), Union Mills (7), Peco (just one Collett Goods) and a few white metal kits from P&D Marsh and Langley. One curio is a Dapol auto-trailer, which has been adapted to become a steam rail car, replacing the front bogies with a motorised Tomytec four-wheel bogie with pistons and connecting rods and adding a chimney. Pick-ups have been added to the rear original bogies for me by Steve Lowndes.

Rolling stock is an eclectic mix of pre-nationalisation carriages and wagons from the usual proprietors, plus some commissioned trucks from Robbie's Rolling Stock and a range of kits from Osbornes, Skytrex, Mill Lane, County Rolling Stock, Langley and the N Gauge Society.

I can accommodate only 16 trains on the layout, so will try to exhibit a variety of locomotives pulling a selection of stopping and throughpassenger services, mixed goods and military supplies. These will predominantly be GWR including a 'Hall', 'Castle', large and small 'Prairies', 'Dukedog', City of Truro brought out of retirement, 'Flying Banana' railcars, 'Panniers', 'Collett Goods' and (hopefully) a pair of Sonic 56XX locomotives. Visiting SR Q1 and 'Spam Can', an LMS 'Compound' and an LNER D11, alternating with a D16 with a troop train of Gresley teaks, are aimed at that small minority of people for whom GWR holds little appeal.

I have been experimenting with couplings to find the optimum pairing for whole rake running and magnetic uncoupling. Some of my rolling stock have DGs, others have Dapol's Easi-shunt buckeyes. some have Elsies with magnetic detaching strips, others have Rapidos in NEM pockets. Recently, I tried the Scharfenberg couplings bought from Dapol. I suspect these would be fine in a home-based layout, but I found in transit to and from the ARA clubhouse, they were not robust for frequent coupling/de-coupling in and out of stock boxes, and one vital part kept falling off, while some were never recovered. The jury is still out.



provide a shoulder for ballasting. I am never content with my ballasting. I buy granite chips that look really small, but when glued in place (using a diluted PVA and fairy liquid solution), you realise that a small 1mm piece is actually a large six scale inches. Conversely, I find applying really fine grain sets hard like concrete.

All my turn-out points are Peco medium radius Electrofrog, even in the fiddle yard, and they are all fitted with Peco PL-10 solenoid point motors. The points in the scenic section all have the PL-10E motors with the extended pin, while behind the scenic break I cut square holes beneath the points and attach the motors directly to the track. Every point motor in the scenic section is also fitted with a PL-13 accessory switch, which applies reversible power to the switch blades. This helps maintain running

even if switch blades become dirty.

I have used Gaugemaster and Heathcote polarity reversers in the past, but I find Peco's to be more robust in transit.

Control system

From my AnyRail trackplan, I realised that simply having a central power station and merry-go-round would not provide enough activity for the public. One of the lessons of exhibiting is the need for almost continuous, albeit atypical, running. Consequently, around the outside runs a double track offering up and down main line trains, which are operated independently of the merry-go-round. These tracks come around to the fiddle yard where six or seven trains in each direction are stored in isolated loops to be run in rotation.

Each is operated by a Gaugemaster Combi

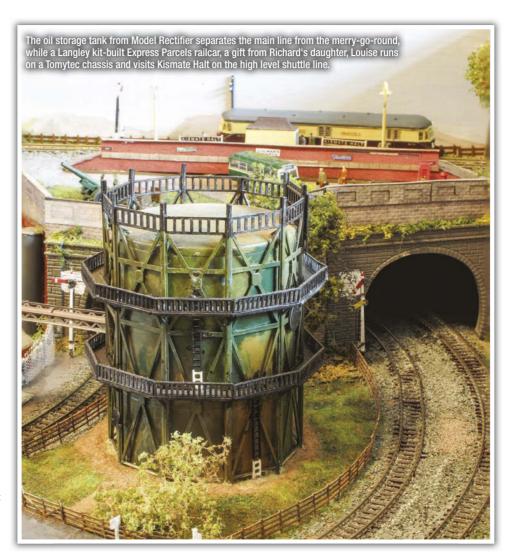
DC/Analogue controller, from which 16 volts AC is taken from the accessory output to power a Gaugemaster CDU to operate the point motors in the fiddle yard and the siding in the scenic section. I use a basic mimic map for each direction with inset studs and isolation switches. These are integral to the fiddle yard boards to obviate the necessity for additional bolt-on panels. The probes were made for me by Steve Lowndes, who inserts wires into hollowed Biros, which have proved more robust for exhibition use than bought ones.

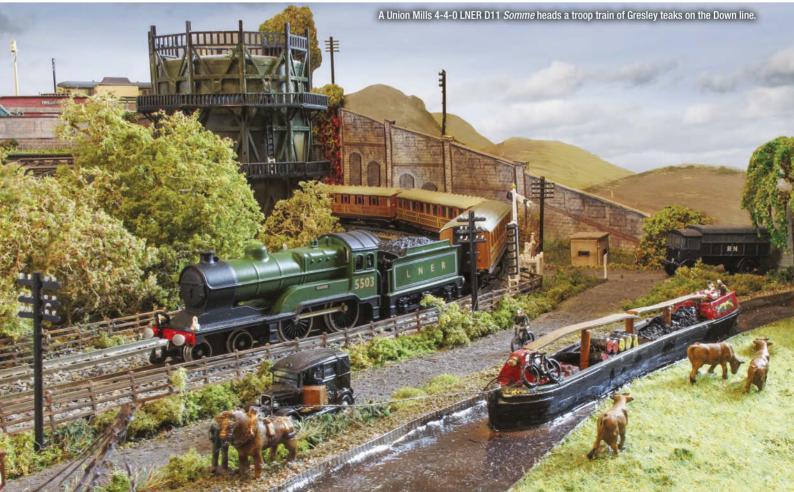
The merry-go-round is powered separately using a Clive Heathcote SA5 unit with four IRDOT infrared detectors buried between sleepers. The operation is thus: train 'A' laden-with-coal emerges from the backscene and enters the power station where it goes into the coal shed to unload.

The train continues back to its hidden starting point, passing over two IRDOTs thus triggering four sets of points via a Heathcote heavy-duty CDU, and setting off train 'B' from behind the scenic break. This train emerges from another shed, however, with an identical locomotive, rake formation of wagons and 'Toad' brake van as train 'A', but is now carrying waste ash. It leaves the power station and disappears offstage, where it passes over IRDOTs to trigger the points and, after a suitable delay, re-starts the cycle with coal train 'A' once again emerging.

The aim is to create the impression of the same train having replaced its coal load with waste ash. To aid this illusion, I have on order two identical Revolution/Sonic 56XX locomotives but, in the meantime, I use either a pair of Dapol 45XX small 'Prairies' or two Union Mills 'Collett Goods'.

Experience of damage in transit has led me to set up a parallel manual control, with a Gaugemaster Model W hand controller. The flick of a switch provides a manual override for the merry-go-round track and points. Hopefully, this belt and braces approach won't be necessary, but it is better to assume the worst and hope for the best. I operate the merry-go-round with the manual control when trying out the different pairings of locomotives because otherwise, each change necessitates diving under the boards to adjust the SA5 speed control.



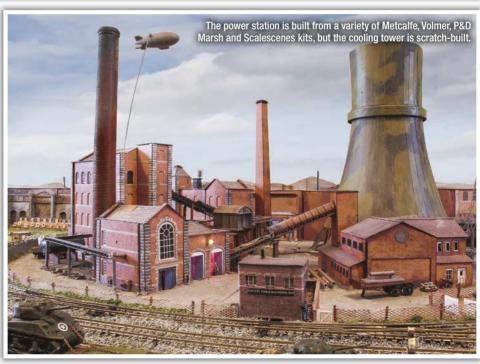




Architecture

I was acutely aware that the board was very flat and so wanted to add some height. I've attempted this in three ways. Firstly, by the architecture of the power station with bashed Metcalfe buildings representing coal-crushing and boiler/engine houses, a turbine hall and ash-refining building, all linked with P&D Marsh conveyor belts, and a scratch-built cooling tower from a downloaded cut-out of Tinsley tower, held together with a severed yoghurt pot top representing the Newton Abbot upper walkway. While the cooling tower dominates the central scene, it is, in fact, only one-third the full-scale height. Trees at both ends of the layout add height, too.

The main departure from the flat, however, is a high-level track in front of the back scenic break, which has a singletrack return shuttle unit running to and



Animations

While admiring other exhibition layouts and talking to the fee-paying public, it seemed to me there is a need to try something different from the norm, to try to add something out of the ordinary, without going over the top. In my layouts, I have tried to find something which, although not necessarily unique as I am an unashamed borrower of other people's ideas, does offer a distinctive element. In my case, I have added two Seuthe smoke generating units; one is in the ruined cottage and sits beside a Layouts4You flickering fire unit, and the other is in a 120ft scale Volmer HO chimney in the power station (inspired by Phil Parker's article in BRM Magazine, Spring 2017).

The main feature, however, is the steam generator concealed in the cooling tower. My main concern is that if I run it constantly it will turn the paper cooling tower into soggy papier-mâché. I hope not, as to make it required over a thousand scissor snips!



from a Halt. The shuttle unit is based on a Heathcote SA1 unit with three IRDOTs, and I run either a GWR 'Banana' railcar or an auto-coach. I like this shuttle unit as it offers acceleration and deceleration rather than the abrupt start/stop of some other makes. As a fail-safe, I have also wired this track to the Gaugemaster Walkabout controller should manual control be needed.

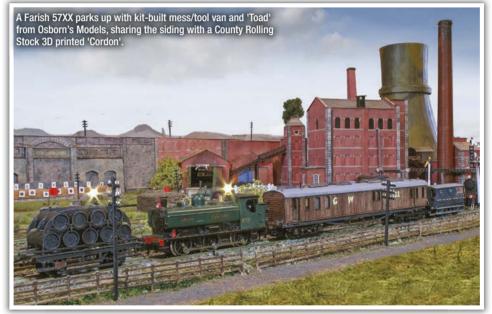
While these features add some relief. they can't disguise the flatness of the overall board, hence the legend that the layout is set somewhere secret on the Somerset Levels.

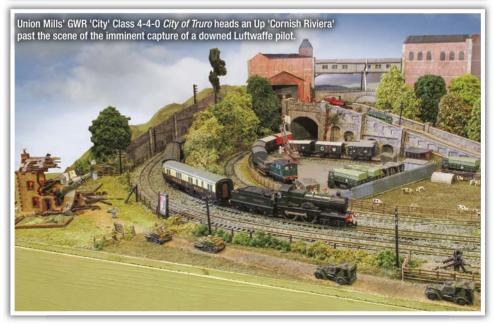
The train operation, therefore, is fairly straightforward; while the merry-go-round and high-level shuttle do their own thing, the operators drive Up and Down trains, with shorter passenger trains stopping at the station. The Down line has access to a siding on to which goods and works trains can come and go.

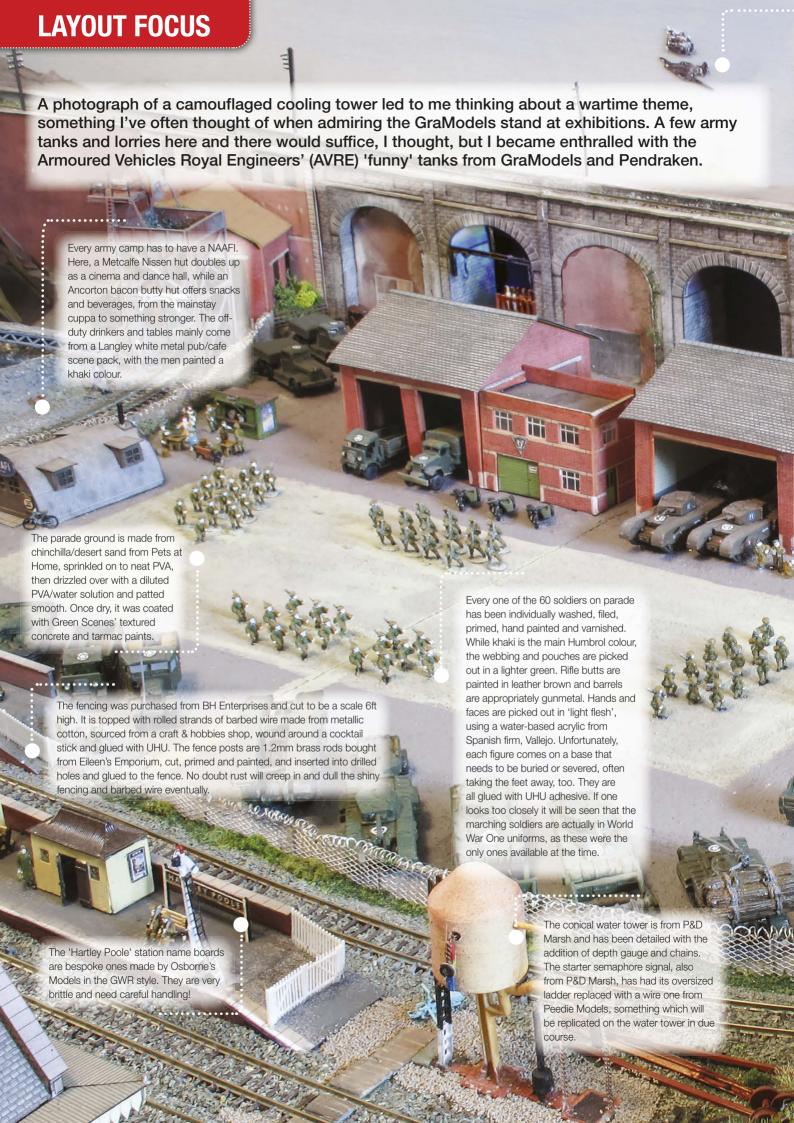
While all this complies with my aim to 'Keep It Simple', I had to come up with a better name than Kismate. Again, my quest for economy came to the fore.

I had already purchased seven team shirts with 'Hartley Poole' embroidered on them, and couldn't bear the thought of these becoming redundant. Consequently, I was tempted merely to opt for 'Hartley Poole 2', but thought the writing of 'Too' looked better. It will also prove cheaper to have 'Too' embroidered seven times than to buy new shirts.

As a nod towards the original working title, however, the high-level station is called 'Kismate Halt'.







A secondary theme

With the train element of the layout sorted, I still had a few square feet of empty board either side of the merry-go-round. Given the war-time era chosen, and having constantly been impressed at exhibitions by GraModels' military vehicles and equipment, I thought an army camp on one side and military activity on the other would be appropriate. For the army camp buildings, I've used Metcalfe, including the arches under the viaduct over which the shuttle runs, Nissen huts and its bus depot. I also purchased several items from Peedie Models, including its Nissen hut.

GraModels has some army personnel suitably posed for waiting on a platform,

but I also wanted soldiers in activity mode. Pendraken Miniature models offers a range of personnel, vehicles and ordnance and I soon found myself amassing a selection of the rarer Armoured Vehicles used by the Royal Engineers (AVRE). I learned much from the Tank Museum's videos on You Tube. Many of my Oxford Diecast army vehicles sported D-Day markings and so I decided my era would be in the weeks leading up to June 6, 1944. I added more vehicles from GraModels and bought additional D-Day decals from Pendraken.

To add human interest, there is a group of NAAFI huts and welding repairs being undertaken. The main personnel presence is in the form of four marching platoons, performing a march-past.

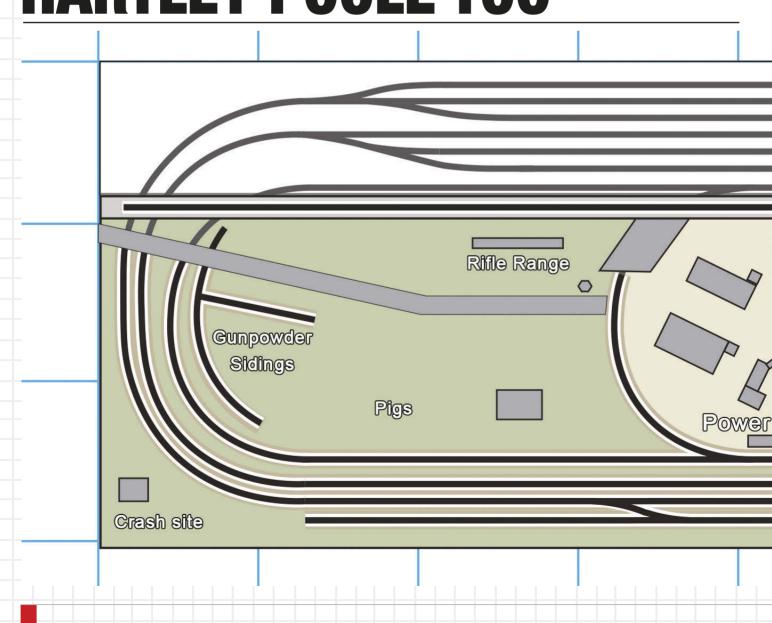
Meanwhile at the western end of the layout, I have installed three anti-aircraft batteries of GraModels' Bofors guns, and searchlights provided by Kytes Lights. The gun emplacements came from Pendraken and Peedie Models. At the rear, a platoon of Somerset Light Infantrymen practise at a rifle range.

Cameos

I am aware that less can be more and there is a danger of cluttering up a layout because an enthusiast like me can't resist a cliché. From cows to pigs, deer, tractors, telephone kiosks, GPO pillar boxes, buses (usually on bridges), steam rollers, bikes, barges, mums with

Trackplan

HARTLEY POOLE TOO



prams, dustbins or oil tanks, the list goes on. I'm guilty as charged – I'm on the lookout for a pair of badgers now.

Nevertheless, nature abhors a vacuum. As one corner cameo filler, I have added an Ancorton ruined cottage, although I don't think the manufacturer envisaged the cause of its parlous state. A Luftwaffe FW 190, brought down by the Bofors, has crashed into the cottage and the pilot awaits capture from advancing Home Guard units. Fortunately, the plane missed the nearby gunpowder store. The adjacent Gloucester Old Spots seem oblivious of all the military activity going on around them.

At the other front corner is a more tranquil scene as a laden Langley white

metal cargo narrow-boat approaches the station wharf, where an N Brass Loco light crane awaits. There is a nearby Layouts4You flashing police call box, which I know child visitors (of all ages) call a TARDIS. The canal water is a mixture of coloured varnish topped with Deluxe Aqua Magic. Jersey cows – no Friesians here – look on.

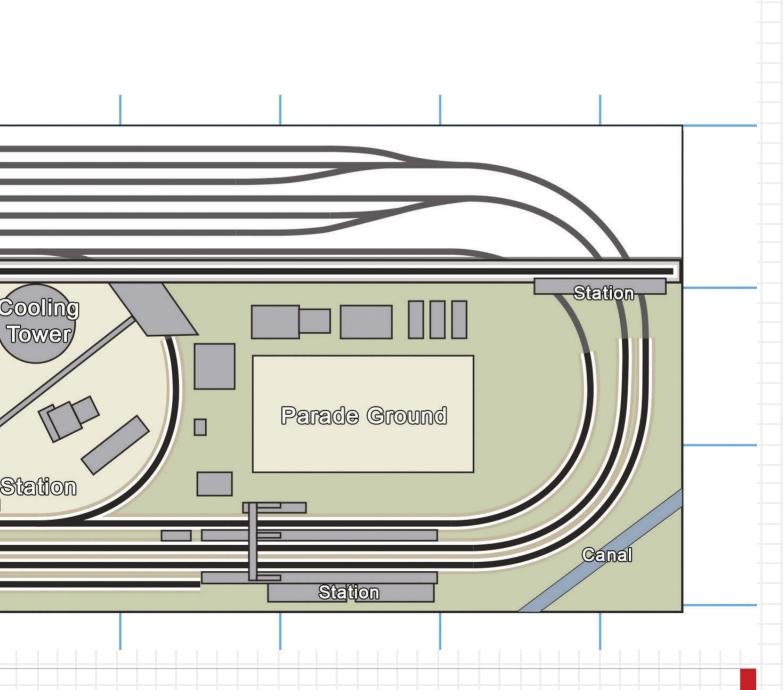
What next?

My exhibition withdrawal symptoms were exacerbated when BRM's Alexandra Palace show fell prey to the Covid lockdown. This was to have been 'Hartley Poole's' valedictory swan-song before retirement. It is not to be scrapped, however, but will become a permanent fixture in the attic. At

last I'll be able to span lengths of track over the troublesome board joints.

While the Covid lockdown enabled me to make more progress on 'Hartley Poole Too' than I otherwise might have done, I now want to be able to get out and about again and start attending exhibitions, and hope to receive some invitations so I can share it with BRM readers.

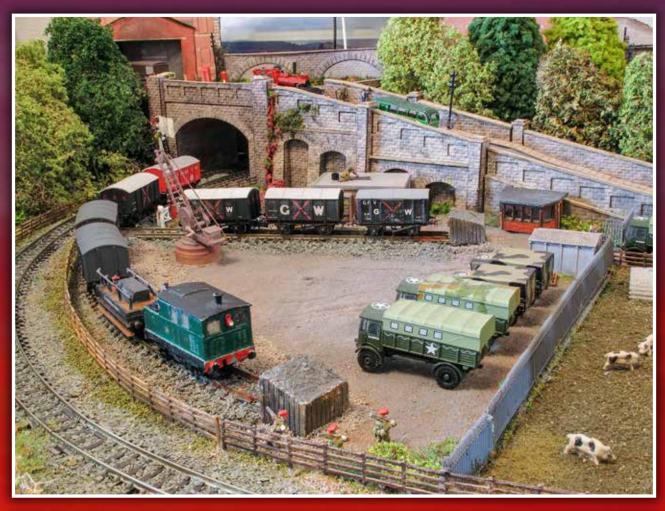
Having completed the lighting rig using Layouts4U LED strips and a curtain surround, it now feels all dressed up with nowhere to go.

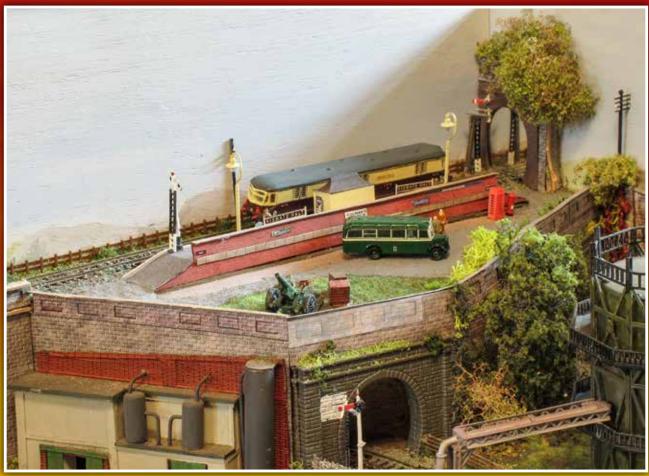




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DIGIZALEDITA HARTLEY POOLE

Richard Hart describes the journey from inception to exhibition on the latest layout to emerge from the prolific Alsager Railway Association.

Words: Richard Hart Photography: Andy York





Making a start

It all started in the months preceding my decision to take early retirement. My preretirement course had drummed into me the necessity to take up a hobby, although, as my wife Jane put it, they didn't anticipate it becoming an obsession. I settled upon model railways.

Jane and I were living in a small cottage in North Wales at the time which dictated it should be either N or 009 gauge for space reasons. I didn't appreciate Z or T gauge at the time. Our son Iain took the decision with my next Christmas present - a Graham Farish GWR 2-6-2 'Prairie'. Subsequently, all birthday and Christmas presents from the family, including daughter Louise and fiancé Ashley, have been N Gauge GWR-related.

Raison d'être

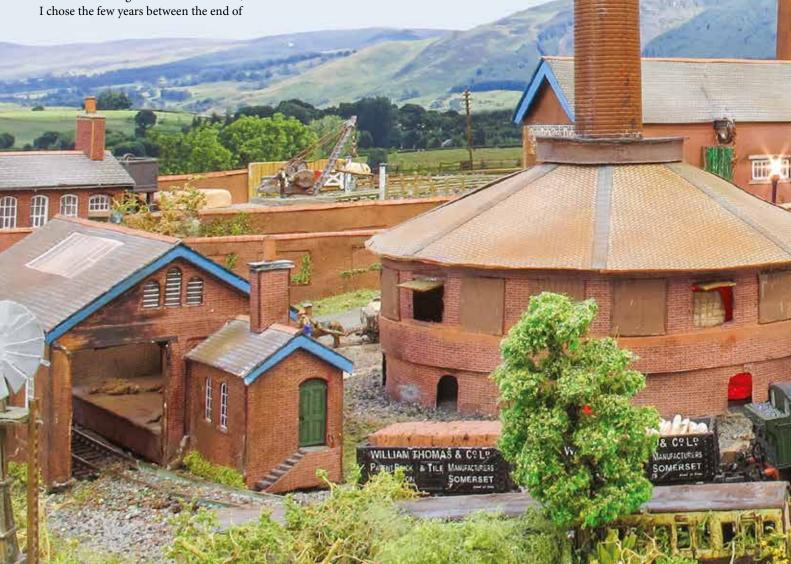
Why GWR? I was born in my grandparents' line-side cottage in Poole in Somerset. My grandfather, Charlie Davey, was the signalman overseeing Poole Siding on the Bristol to Exeter line from 1920. The siding served the William Thomas brick and tile works, where from 1946 my father Edmund was the works engineer/fitter. Therefore, I chose the few years between the end of

the Second World War and nationalisation, and Poole Siding took shape on a 5ft x 2ft Sundeala board, primarily as a shunting layout.

Club Membership

On retirement we moved to Cheshire to a house that has a 30ft attic, and I joined the Alsager club. It was at this point that I was introduced to Messrs Parkinson and Robinson. Parkinson's Law dictates that a model railway shall expand to fill the space available, and it was during the ensuing expansion that my planning partner became Heath Robinson.

With encouragement from club colleagues, I worked away in my attic expanding 'Poole Siding' piecemeal, adopting lessons learned by operating these inspirational layouts at exhibitions and working on the new club layout 'Fredstone Lane'. Firstly, I added return loops at both ends for continuous running, then I added a seven-track storage and fiddle yard behind the layout, so the original 62in x 26in became 96in x 34in.

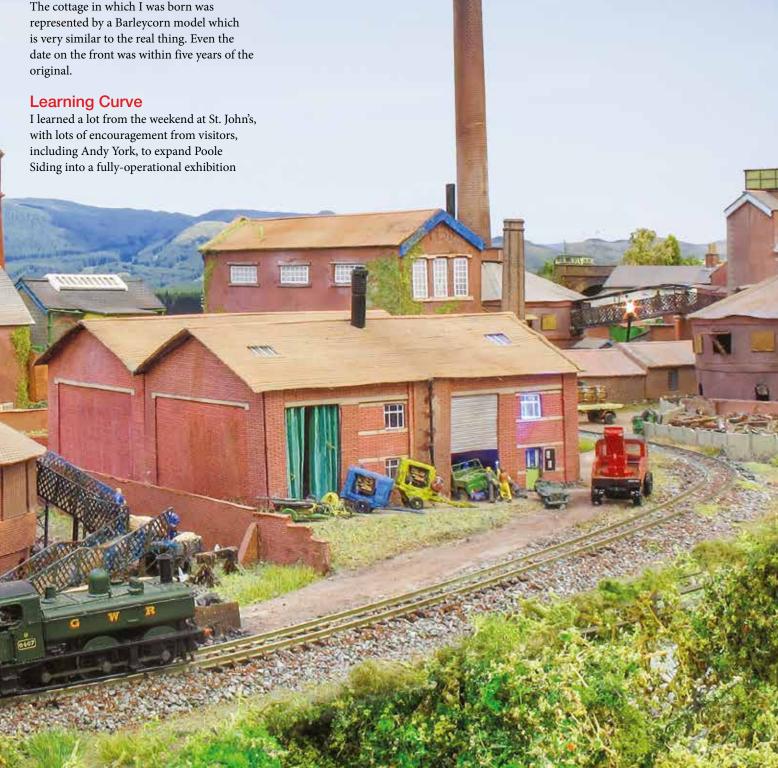


Big Reveal

Initially I was invited to display my 'Poole Siding' layout as a semi-static work-inprogress exhibit at the St. John's charity show at Stoke-on-Trent, organised by John Cox. I set up the board on two trestles and shunted a few GWR 0-6-0 'Panniers' with my specially commissioned Robbie's Rolling Stock William Thomas wagons, with a static 'Castle'-hauled Cornish Riviera on the mainline. The brickworks was made of kit-bashed Metcalfe factories, a bus depot, brewery, and workers' terraced houses, whilst the kilns were scratch-built with the tall chimneys made of kitchen roll centre tubes, tapered and covered with brickpaper. The cottage in which I was born was represented by a Barleycorn model which is very similar to the real thing. Even the original.

Alsager Railway Association has a team of prolific layout builders; whose efforts are no strangers to the pages and cameras of **BRM**. 'Hassell Harbour Bridge' (February 2013 DVD) and 'Newcastle by the Water' (September 2016 **BRM** TV) have featured amongst 'Just Four', 'Buxton', 'Hartshill Bank', 'Dunkow Road', 'Caverswall Junction' (April 2017) and 'Bluebell Cutting'.

A load of bricks heads toward Poole Siding pulled by GWR 'Pannier' No. 6407. The wagons are specially commissioned in William Thomas livery from Robbie's Rolling Stock. This Hoffman kiln was defunct by World War II. It contains a Seuthe smoke unit.





A CLOSER LOOK: BUILDINGS

Wellington Station was built mainly out of Metcalfe kits as was the Tone Dale woollen mill behind it, supplemented with Ratio kits and Dapol signals. A Metcalfe engine shed has been kit-bashed to represent the goods shed, which is still at the site of the former Wellington station today. The Metcalfe footbridge had to be extended to span four tracks and re-shaped to the GWR style, with additional latticework supplied by the ever-helpful Richard Dallimore of County Rolling Stock.

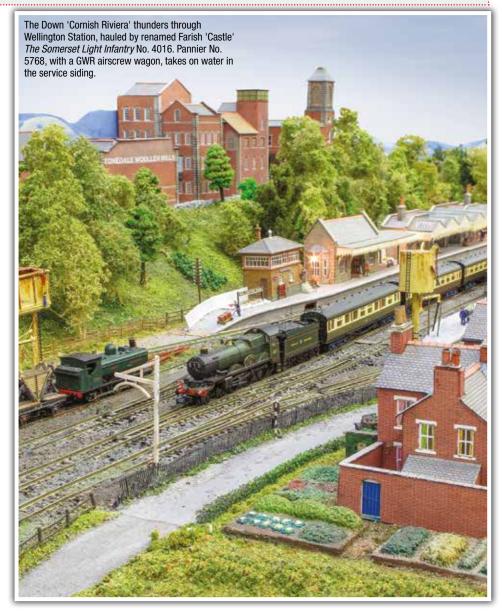
layout. Secondly, if I was serious about shunting in public, the Peco Insulfrog points had to be replaced with Peco motorised medium-radius Electrofrogs. The trestles too ought to be replaced with something firmer, but equally transportable.

I inserted four other boards to depict the landscape to the west of Poole, featuring the Grand Western Canal with the Nynehead boat lift, and Wellington station through to White Ball tunnel. Each new board was accompanied by a parallel storage/fiddle yard at the back. To complete the scene, I added a lower section below the brickyard to depict the clay pit from whence the raw clay would be delivered by my smallest locomotive - a Dapol 0-6-0 'Terrier' Portishead, hauling three 009 wagons laden with clay.

Show Deadline

With the next St. John's show looming, the pace of production quickened with ballasting, scatter/flocking, Model Scenes' sea foam trees, Modroc-shaped embankments, farm and wild animals, vehicles (including three LED-lit bicycles from Morris Models - a present from Jane and Louise) and rear scenery. It was just prior to the show, however, that BRM featured Phil Parker's build of smoking chimneys (Spring 2017).

Consequently, I bought a Seuthe smoke unit from Layouts4U and fitted it into one of my kitchen roll inners. However, Phil used a plastic Vollmer chimney, which he reported as being HO and thus under sized for OO. I



I attended an excellent hard-wiring workshop at DCC Supplies and have undertaken a fair bit of chipping using their superb DiGi-hats. I have recently hard-wired Lenz Silver Mini chips into my five Union Mills locomotives: a Dean Goods and two each of Dukedogs and Collett Goods. I am pleased that Union Mills introduced GWR locomotives because they are reliable and great haulers. About two thirds of my locomotives are DCC-chipped. Farish 'Castle' No. 5078 *Beaufort* leads the returning 'Torbay Express' out of Wellington as an approaching coal train hauled by Dapol No. 3819 crosses the viaduct.

bought three from Gaugemaster and found them the correct scale height in N Gauge for Poole, although a little oversized in girth. Nevertheless, I bought more smoke units from my go-to model shop, The Hobby Goblin, and replaced the kiln chimneys with smoke units in time for the show.

New Name

All this preparation paled into insignificance in contrast to the arduous task of finding a new name for the layout. Poole Siding was no longer appropriate because the brickworks now only accounted for five of the 21ft length. A protracted committee meeting on the Saturday evening of a Doncaster Show, suitably lubricated, eventually came up with Hartley Poole as a pun on my name but retaining the place of my birth.

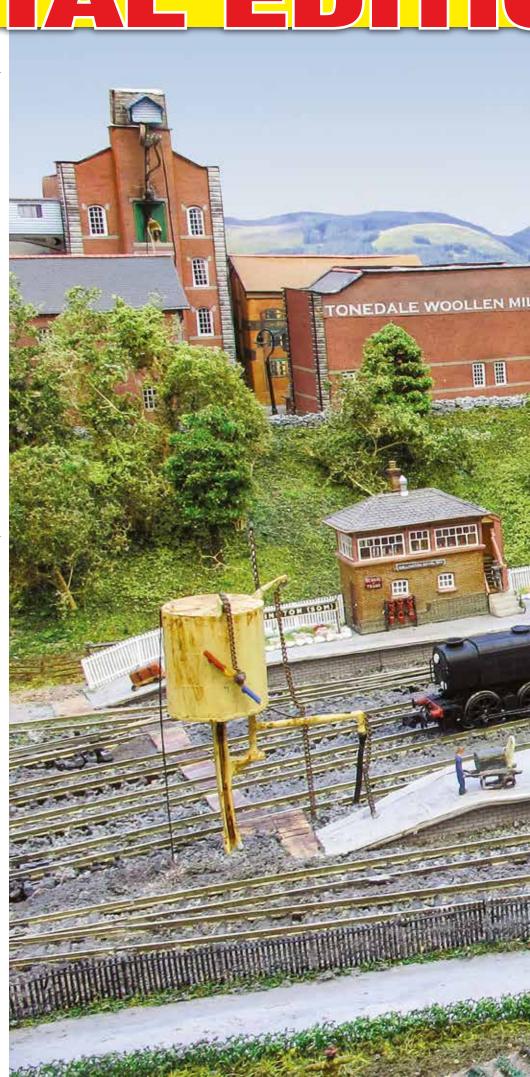
Further modifications

Following St. Johns, I had only a couple of months before the Loughborough Show and implementing the lessons learned became a challenge. I wired up most point switch blades to improve running using Clive Heathcote's points indicator relays, supplemented by relays designed by Adrian Finney (Chairman of the Wrenbury Model Club). I subsequently fitted six Gaugemaster GM500 universal relay switches to the remaining points. These ensure the correct polarity on the blades. In too came a Heathcote stopping unit with infrared detectors, which I fitted to the Poole clay pit track for Portishead to pause to refill its wagons.

Motive Power

I have built up my GWR rolling stock over the years from presents, eBay purchases, traders at shows and the Hobby Goblin. My earliest locomotives were all Graham Farish with 'Prairies', 'Panniers', 'Halls', 'Castles' and railcars, but I subsequently bought Dapol 'Halls', a 'Manor', 'Grange', 'Terrier', small 'Prairie' and 'Pannier' locomotives. I returned to Farish recently, buying three Earl of Dunraven 'Castles', and renaming/ renumbering one The Somerset Light Infantry. In fact, I bought these in part exchange for some Minitrix locomotives through Tennents Trains, because I wanted to build up my DCC-chipped fleet and didn't fancy hard-wiring the Minitrix.

I have some non-GWR interlopers: a kitbuilt LMS Beyer-Garratt which has got lost having taken coal to the Cornish china clay pits, Iain's LMS 'Compound' undergoing



=XGEUS Hassell Harbour Bridge, Watch another of Alsager Railway Association's layouts, at: www.brmm.ag/ HassellHarbour WELLINGTON (SOIL) G A County Rolling Stock's 3D printed gas Cordon kit and a white metal kit-built breakdown crane take a rest in the siding as a visiting SR 0-6-0 Q1 No. C7 passes through.



an exchange trial, a Southern Railways' 'Merchant Navy' 'Spam Can' *Belgian Marine* and a Q1, both diverted due to flooding in Honiton, and a Dapol LNER A4 Pacific *Sir Nigel Gresley*. The A4 hauls a train of Graham Farish teaks and an N Gauge Society Thompson brake to Plymouth with a football special (Newcastle United beat Plymouth Argyle twice in the 1946/47 season, latterly on 12 April 1947, one month after *Sir Nigel Gresley* was re-painted garter blue after its wartime black).

A fusion of control

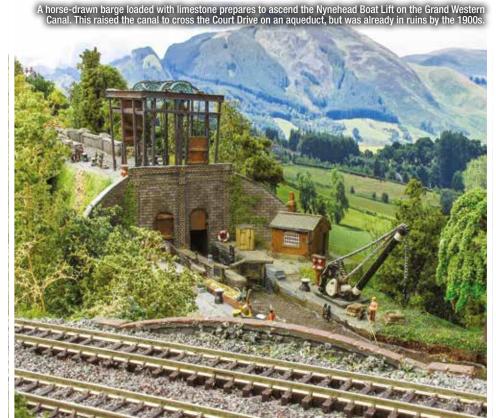
Both the Down and Up lines can operate under DCC or DC, and are dual-wired. The default running is DCC on the Down line and DC on the Up. The switch to change the default is protected to avoid an accident. All non-DCC locomotives are marked with a yellow dot underneath and must only be run on the Up line. Colin Heard of Union Mills gives the life expectancy of one of his un-chipped locomotives on DCC as two seconds.

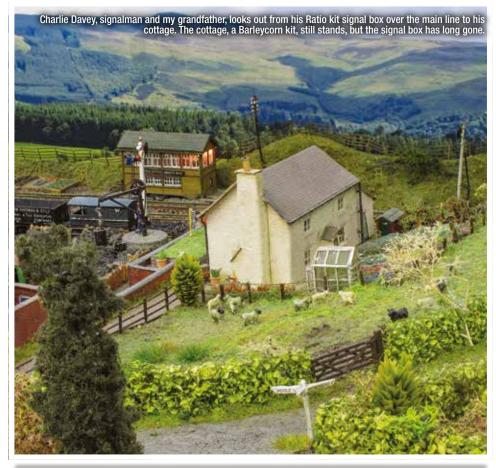
For DCC control I use an NCE PowerCab. I have plug-in terminals in each of the two control panels and, in addition to the master hand controller, I have two supplementary throttles. Therefore, I can have three DCC operators simultaneously, each storing up to six different locomotives.

My DC analogue controller is a Gaugemaster GMC100, but I also have a GMC Combi from which I power the station lights 12VDC and the points CDU 16VAC. If ever the GMC100 were to fail I could run the trains from the Combi's 12v output.

Rolling Stock

I like to offer viewers a variety of local stopping trains and through trains, both passenger (Cornish Riviera and Torbay expresses) and freight. Whilst I have a full share of proprietary carriages and wagons, I also try to add something less frequently



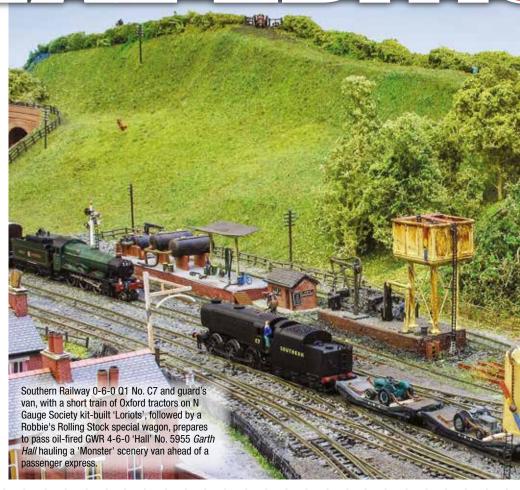


ARCHIVE ACCESS Apart from an imperfect memory of the Poole area whilst growing up, I used some excellent sources to provide inspiration. I've some documentation from the William Thomas social club which includes an etching of the brickworks as if seen from the air in 1872. The main line is broad gauge, but all the principal features are there: my grandparents' cottage, the terraced houses, the kilns with chimneys, sidings and the road. The Britain from Above website has three aerial photographs of Poole taken in 1932, which show the whole of Poole from Trevor House to the signal box, including the clay pit. The Nynehead parish council website has an informative section on the canal and boat lift with history and illustrations by Tony Haskill, Michael Blackmore and Denis Dodd. These were the basis of my scratch-built model of the boat lift and I'm grateful to the authors for their approval to use their illustrations. A 1930s OS map from the National Library of Scotland shows the widespread presence of allotments. I was able to acquire several moulded unpainted allotments from Double O Scenics. My grandfather used to say the drivers of the Cornish Riviera would slow down past his signal box so the passengers could admire the onions in his line-side allotment. Two surprises from these maps are the presence of mail collection apparatus in both directions at Poole, and a gospel hall in the brickworks; I shall be modelling both eventually

seen such as wagon loads of coiled wires made up from clothes pegs springs, or scrap metal collected from the white metal shavings from the inside of Union Mills tenders as I carve room for a DCC chip. I've also tried my hand at some kit building with N Gauge Society 'Macaws', 'Loriots' and 'Borails', ventilated siphon, propeller/ air screw wagon and breakdown crane. In addition to my ten William Thomas wagons from the excellent Robbie's Rolling Stock, I also have several of his containers, plus a bespoke one designed by his indefatigable wife, Katie Burns MBE.

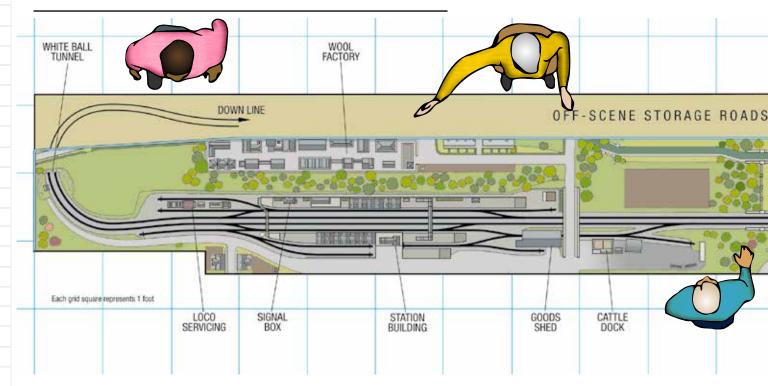
Credits

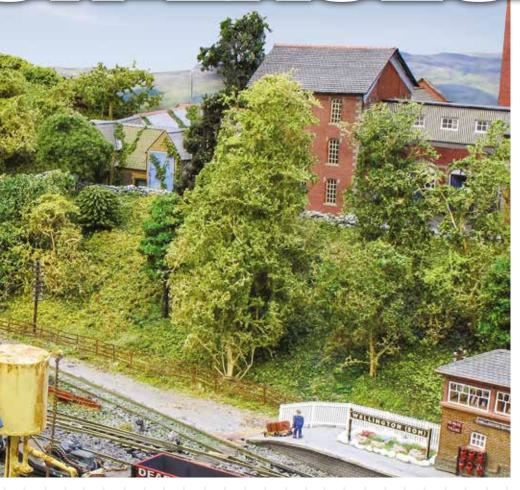
I've learned a lot from the members of the Alsager club, both by working in the club house and operating their layouts at shows. I'm also grateful for their support in operating Hartley Poole at exhibitions. I recommend anyone about to embark on building a layout to join a club. The Alsager club meets on Friday evenings which suits Jane fine, as she can enjoy Monty Don's company and a glass of Prosecco in peace and quiet.



Trackplan

HARTLEY POOLE

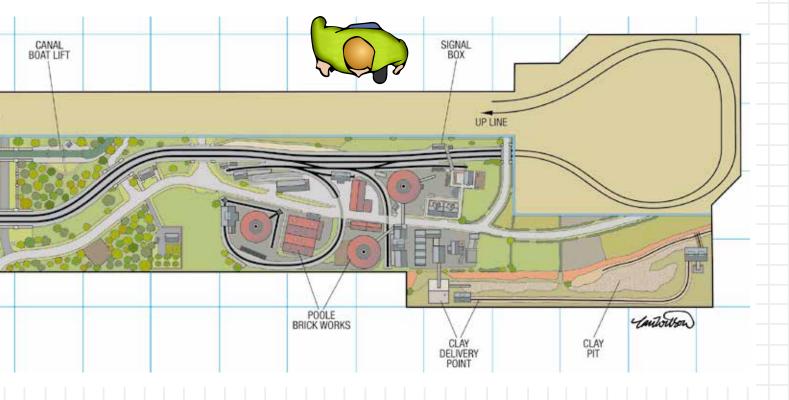




RICHARD'S CHANGES AND ERRORS

There are two forms of errors on Hartley Poole: those of commission and those of omission. The former come under the sub-heading of modellers' licence, and some of mine are whoppers. For example, Wellington station until 1932 had only two tracks. Over the next two years the track was widened to four, with stoppers at both platforms being out of the way for the expresses to thunder through unhindered. However, to make room for the double-width track, the nice old pre-GWR station and footbridge were demolished to be replaced with characterless concrete ones. My modellers' licence enabled me to have four tracks and use more attractive Brunel-inspired Metcalfe station buildings and footbridge.

- The Nynehead boat lift and the Grand Western Canal were defunct before the end of the 19th Century, but I wanted them in my layout. So, south of the railway line it is the 1940s, north of it is a patch of the 1840s. What I have striven for is something that is redolent of the Poole and Wellington areas rather than a replica; fiction based on fact.
- The unintended errors are usually based on ignorance, such as introducing Scammell Scarabs and Land Rovers a year too early - both are 1948.
- Some of the grass scenery is a bit rough because I just couldn't get on with the static grass applicator. Close examination reveals too many glue blobs.
- My biggest area of discontent is my ballasting. In an exhibition hall, fine granite chippings look very small. Get home and glue it all down, however, and it looks huge. A 1 mm piece is a scale six inches, and it shows. Eventually, I'll replace it with super-fine ballast. Nevertheless, I'm not deterred from having a go, and neither should anyone else.





GETTING STARTED IN N GAUGE FINESCALE TRACK

Words & photography: Paul Moss

Authentic-looking track is possible in a smaller scale using proprietary components, as Paul Moss demonstrates, with an introduction to building finescale N gauge track.



hen it comes to model railways, one favoured approach is to focus on building what looks right. That's why I elected to use finescale trackwork on the scenic section of my N gauge exhibition layout, 'Little Salkeld'. Finescale track has a more accurate

sleeper size and pitch. The rail is also Code 40, which is finer and is available in bullhead or flat-bottom profile to suit period and prototype being modelled. Finescale track is also more delicate, so is really suited to being permanently fixed and ballasted in position.

Experience gained from exhibiting 'Little Salkeld' suggests that finescale N gauge and 2FS are sometimes confused. The term 2FS is typically used to refer to a more accurate track gauge and standard throughout, although it is close to N gauge in many ways.

A traditional approach was to scratchbuild track by soldering rails to copperclad sleepers and this technique is still favoured by some. An alternative is the use of FiNetrax N gauge track components, which are supplied by British Finescale Ltd. FiNetrax components provide a useful compromise for those that may not have the time available to scratch-build track or the inclination to undertake a lot of soldering.

When I built 'Little Salkeld' in 2017, I opted for a hybrid approach, mixing the FiNetrax components with points that were scratch-built for me by Keith Armes.

Keith specialises in 2FS but can do finescale N gauge, providing a track planning service using Templot software and a bespoke point building service. I chose this route at the time because 'Little Salkeld' sits on a bespoke radius and I wanted the track to accurately follow the prototype radius. FiNetrax point kits can be modified to suit a gentle radius. However, I was on a tight time schedule to get the layout to its first exhibition and Keith's work is exemplary.

While the scale is close, it's not possible to use N gauge stock on 2FS track. N gauge RTR rolling stock typically uses wheels that are significantly overscale in terms of flange thickness and wheel profile. 2FS requires the use of finer wheel standards, which are much closer to the prototype. It's likely that N gauge wheels would encounter problems running through check rails and frogs on 2FS point work leading to derailment.

N Gauge RTR stock can be modified to

run on 2FS track. However, the accuracy and appearance of 2FS looks exceptional.

Think of N gauge finescale as a good compromise. With a little additional effort, you can have accurate looking track without needing to heavily modify RTR rolling stock and there's no special skill set required.

Getting started

Finescale track of any gauge requires a good surface, particularly where there may be baseboard joints. I would recommend using the best quality birch plywood that you can get your hands on. This is particularly important if you are building a layout that will travel to exhibitions or be subjected to variable temperatures or humidity.

For the few who plan an exhibition layout using finescale track, use alignment dowels as well as bolts to ensure that connecting baseboard ends and track are accurately aligned.

You will often see people debating the advantages (or not) of using a cork underlay. There's some personal preference involved here, and to be fair, its ability to quieten down moving rolling stock is debatable. I prefer to use it under the track as it enables me to create the ballast profile.

Track construction

FiNetrax track components are available to represent both wooden and concrete sleepers and can be matched with Code 40 rail in both bullhead and flat bottom profiles. I would take guidance from the period and location that you are modelling when selecting which type to use. Take care, because bullhead rail on wooden sleepers can still be found on some parts of the current network. FiNetrax components are available from British Finescale Ltd.

Before removing track components from the sprue, run a light abrasive across the underside of the track components. This will assist adhesion when fixing track in position later.

Tools

You can prepare and assemble FiNetrax track components without jigs and tooling. However, it's not recommended. Using the affordable filing and assembly jigs will make life a lot easier. It's also particularly beneficial for your sanity if you are building a sizeable layout with a lot of track!

There are a range of simple filing and assembly jigs to assist in the assembly of track components

Tools needed:

- · 25W soldering iron with fine or chisel tip
- · Xuron track cutters
- · Snipe-nosed pliers
- · Small file
- · FiNetrax filing & assembly jigs
- · Fibreglass brush or fine abrasive
- · 1m rosin core solder
- ·Superglue
- · PVA

TOP TIP

Before starting work ensure that your rail is clean by running a fine abrasive such as a fibreglass pen along its length. Use flux to assist the solder's flow along the side of the rail. Using a soldering iron with a fine tip is not essential, but it will provide you with much more control.

2FS vs N gauge

A comparison between N gauge Peco Streamline and two finescale alternatives. Note the sleeper size and pitch together with use of finer Code 40 rail. The difference in height is also apparent with a visible air gap under the FiNetrax track. This table provides an indication of the key differences:

2FS

9.42mm track gauge 1:152 Scale

Can use modified N gauge RTR products or a range of kits and scratch-building components are available to members of the 2mm Scale Association

Uses scale wheels, correctly-sized locomotive Overscale wheels, undersize locomotive frames and fine motion parts

All track is either scratch-built or track components are available from the 2mm Scale Association. 2FS uses Code 40 rail.

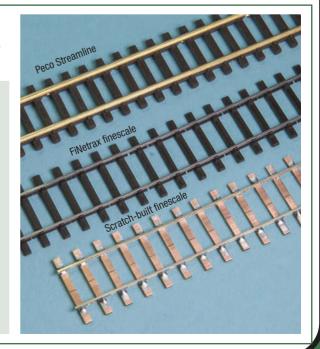
N Gauge

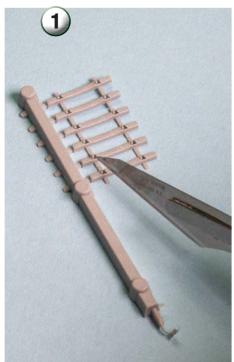
9mm track gauge 1:148 Scale

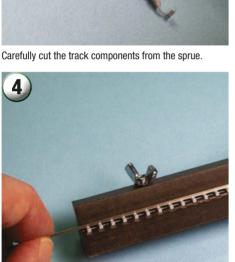
Supported with RTR products from manufacturers such as Peco, Bachmann or Dapol. Kits are available or rolling stock can be scratch-built

frames and slightly coarse motion parts

Track is available ready-to-lay from manufacturers such as Peco and is typically Code 80 or Code 55. Alternatively, finescale track can be scratch-built or FiNetrax track components and kits are available both using Code 40 rail

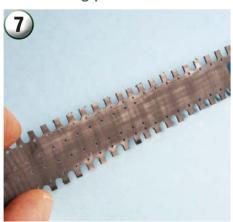






Slide the rail through the chairs. Once the rail has passed through two or three chairs it will be well aligned for the remainder and just needs to be carefully pushed through. Repeat the exercise with the second rail.

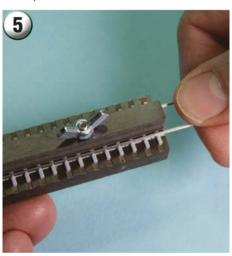
Assembling point kits



Use a fine abrasive to roughen the shiny underside of the sleeper base. This will provide a better key for glue later on.



Drop the sleeper bases into the assembly jig and tighten the locking bar. Avoid over tightening as this may distort the sleepers.



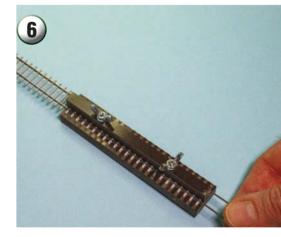
Once you have passed the rail through the jig, grasp both rails and slowly pull them through the chairs.



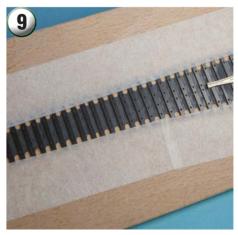
Carefully remove the cast frog fitted to the Sleeper base. Drill a 2.5mm hole between the sleepers, which will be hidden by the frog. Replace the push-fit frog after you have drilled and deburred the hole.



Using a small file or abrasive, put a small taper on each side and underside of the rail. This is very important and will enable the rail to better slide through the chairs without jamming or causing any damage. If you are using bullhead rail, ensure that it is the right way up before you assemble it. The top is slightly larger than the bottom. Flat bottom rail can only be assembled the right way up.



Repeat the process with more sleeper bases until you have created a length of track. Store the track somewhere safe before you install it on your layout to prevent it getting damaged.



Tape the sleeper base to a piece of scrap plywood. Ideally, use a piece that is flat and not warped. This provides a stable temporary work surface during assembly.

TOP TIP

While a good fit, the rails can still slide a little within the chairs, so it is a good idea to add a spot of superglue, which will ensure they stay in position. This is particularly important for rails next to the frog because the electrical polarity switches when the switch rails move.



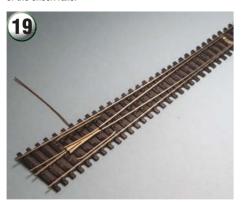
We need to strengthen the switch rails. Using the sleeper base as a guide, cut them to length. Fill one side at the end with approximately 20mm of solder. This is only required on the end that will form the switch.



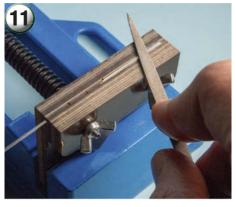
This completes the manufacture of the switch rail. Repeat for the second switch rail.



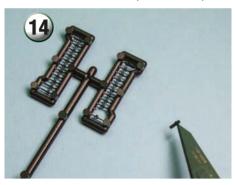
Cut and taper the ends of the remaining rails. The point is now ready for final assembly. Start with the switch rails, also adding the supplied tie bar. The switch rails will hold it in place. Next, fit the stock rails and finally the check rails. Don't forget to add a slight bend at the end of each of the check rails



This completes the manufacture of the switch rail. Repeat for the second switch rail.



Insert the switchblade rail into the FiNetrax filing and assembly jig with the soldered end exposed and facing down. Using a needle file carefully file the exposed end until it's flush with the jig. Apply pressure gradually when filing. Rotate the rail and repeat the process on the soldered side. The result is a sharp switch blade tip.



Cut each chair from the sprue and, using the tip of the craft knife, insert the chairs into the sleeper base.



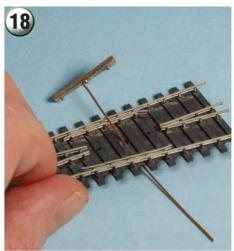
When the chairs and rails are all sitting down in position, they can be glued using Butanone. Once the adhesive is fully cured, the assembled point can be carefully removed from the plywood.



The switch rail is now soldered to a chair plate. The jig is laid flat and the etched slide chair is placed into the slot. The sharpened end of the switchblade is slid into the jig and the thumb screws tightened. A piece of 0.4mm wire is inserted into the hole on the slide chair and cut flush. The assembly is soldered on one side and tidied using a



Instructions provided with the point kit show where each chair type is to be inserted into the sleeper base.



Lift out and remove the frog and solder a dropper wire to the underside where it sits over the 2.5mm hole. The frog can then be reassembled to the sleeper base and secured in position using superglue.

Ballasting

An important consideration is the need to use a fine ballast that's in proportion to the track. Some proprietary N gauge ballast materials can look a little coarse and overscale compared to the track. There is a practical solution, however, and after experimentation, I found that a mix of one third N gauge ballast to two-thirds chinchilla dust creates a much finer appearance.

Ballast can be secured in position in the usual way with a thinned PVA and detergent mix. A word of warning here is that this ballast mixture will dry solid, so it's important that you adjust it with a fine brush before the glue cures. Some chinchilla dust may also look a little green in appearance, so I also add a small amount of weathering powder to the ballast mix before applying it, which instantly transforms the colour.

Fixing track

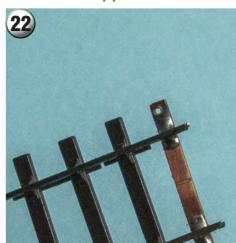


Finescale track is a bit delicate for using track pins. A good solution is to use thinned PVA glue, which can be applied to the underside of the track components using a small paintbrush. The consistency of the PVA should be similar to milk in appearance and viscosity. Lightly brush the underside of the track with the watered-down PVA mixture before placing it in position on the layout.



Once the track is firmly glued in position, you can carefully remove the excess cork. You can opt to lay cork strips under the track to reduce wastage, however, I prefer to cover the baseboard area around the trackplan and simply remove the excess with a scraper.

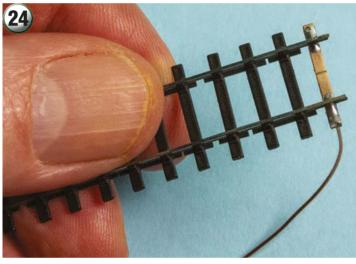
Electrical droppers



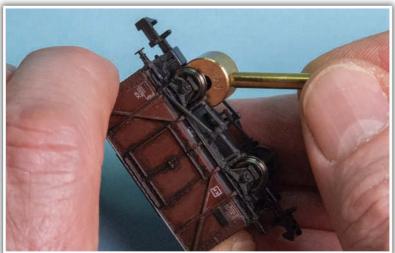
Soldering electrical dropper wires to Code 40 rail requires a steady hand. There is an easier alternative, however, which also can assist in preventing rails from moving in the chairs. This is the inclusion of a copper clad sleeper at the end of each section of track or point. The copper clad sleeper can be drilled to accommodate a dropper wire. It provides a larger surface area on which to solder and enables dropper wires to be replaced once the trackwork is fixed to the layout and ballasted.



Using a pair of small or snipe-nosed pliers, flatten the end of your dropper wire and bend it 90-degrees to form a heel.



Pass the dropper wire through the hole on the sleeper. While ensuring the heel sits flat on the top of the sleeper, solder it into position using a minimal amount of solder. Flux is your friend here and ensures that you end up with a nice neat



Conclusion

It's important to ensure that the wheels on your rolling stock are set up correctly for smooth running. You can easily check and adjust the distance between the back of the rolling stock wheel sets using a back-to-back gauge. It's just a case of sliding the gauge between the wheels and checking that the backs of each wheel just touch the gauge. If they are too tight or too loose, one of the wheels can be adjusted on the axle. This is something I would recommend checking and adjusting even if you are not using finescale track as poor backto-back dimensions can lead to poor running through points. Back-toback gauges are relatively low cost and typically only a few pounds, so are a good investment for smooth running.

Building your own track may seem intimidating at first; however, it's just a matter of being methodical and using a little patience. If you are keen to gain the appearance of finescale track, I would suggest having a go with a few track components and a piece of scrap plywood.



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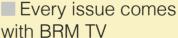
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HOW TO... PAINT A BACKSCENE

Words & photography: Howard Smith

Howard Smith shares how basic techniques benefit the most reticent of artists, to transform their model railways into a more immersive experience.



ailways belong in a landscape. For a more convincing appearance, the same is true of their model counterparts, that's why I feel all layouts should have a backdrop. It doesn't matter what form this takes, from a plain stretched sky-blue canvas, to a painted picture, printed landscape, or even a photo-realistic custom effort, so long as it helps limit what the viewer sees. Even basic backscenes will

create a visual block between the model and everything that surrounds it, from clutter to brick walls.

My preference is for a photo-realistic backscene, but let's face it, unless you've access to a large-scale high-quality printer and you're a dab hand at using image manipulation software, expect to have to pay someone a fair sum to complete the work for you, or accept mediocre results on a small

home printer.

In such cases, painting your own backscene is a better option – fear not though, you needn't be a maestro of brush techniques to obtain acceptable results. The key is to create something that will enhance your layout, not detract from the modelling. It should be complementary, not overpowering - there, but not noticeably visible.

Let's get started.



Choose your backscene material wisely. I've opted for that provided by White Rose Modelworks - a stable and dense fibreboard. Consider the environment in which your material will stand. Humidity, and excess heat can lead to deformations or mould growth.

SHOPPING LIST

1in and 3in decorator's brush

Crown White Undercoat

White Rose fibreboard

Homebase Tester Pots: Dolphin Blue, Turtle Dove, Night Time Blue, Mossy Green, Parched Earth, Pale Olive, Zebra Black, Fresh Herb, Earthy Clay and Angel Pink



Sealing the material is a wise move, though not obligatory. Taking a 'belt and braces' approach, I paint a white undercoat from Crown, suitable for interior or exterior use, with a 3in brush onto the backscene. Work quickly as this solvent-based paint dries quickly.

Eliminating brush marks from a hand-painted backscene is difficult, so rather than attempt to hide them, simply embrace their hand-crafted look. Keep brush strokes in one direction, working horizontally to prevent swirls in the paint that can be harder to disguise. Set aside and leave for 16 hours to dry.



Dividing the board into three sections with masking tape provides three separate areas onto which I can practise techniques and different skies. The last time I carried out any painting that wasn't home decorating was more than 12 years ago. A little experimenting is required - wish me luck!



Using a 1in decorator's brush, to the left panel I apply a coat of Blue Dolphin, working from the top, downwards. All 90ml colour tester paints for this project came from a D.I.Y store, costing a pound each. Their contents are enough for a small layout backscene.

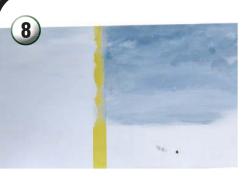


The smallest drop of Night Time Blue is added to Blue Dolphin on a palette and worked across the top of the sky. Look at most skies under normal viewing conditions and the hue of the colour intensifies the closer it is to the viewer. On a layout, this translates to darker tones of blue or off-blue, to the top of the backscene. Blend colours together before they dry for best results



To the right-hand panel, I'm hoping to achieve a sky with a little more drama, but not one that is overpowering and detracts attention from the layout. Turtle Dove is a suitably grey sky colour, though use sparingly. Don't worry if some areas are a little darker than others and keep brush strokes horizontally in the same direction, for now.

PRACTICAL BRM



A side-by-side comparison revealed that the Turtle Dove to the right panel was a little too dark, so its effect was subdued by applying a mixture of Blue Dolphin and the smallest amount of Night Time Blue, working the brush in a circular swirling motion across the board. Blend the colours together at the bottom, working the brush horizontally as though dry brushing



Feather out the paint toward the bottom of the backscene. Most of what has been painted here won't be seen under normal viewing conditions, the visible part of the horizon line being just a few centimetres beneath the summit of the hill.



Returning to the Turtle Dove, an old washing-up sponge is dabbed – sponge, not scourer side – into the paint, before dabbing the majority off on a piece of paper towel. What remains on the sponge is dabbed on the backscene to create cloud shapes. Find a technique that works for you, remembering that clouds catch the sunlight to their tops or have a 'silver lining', and have shadows underneath.



The colour of the landscape should reflect that of the sky for best results. An overcast and dull day is unlikely to yield vistas of a well-lit landscape. Even on a well-lit day, distant hills are a muted colour, hence use muted colours. Pale Olive is used on the right-hand panel.



I'm keeping the landscape free of detail. I find that painted trees look like just that. If you really must have trees, try forced perspective before you reach your backdrop, placing these on the layout instead. For trees on a backdrop, use flock and clump foliage to make a 3D effect. Fresh Herb is painted, using the edge of the brush to cut a neat horizon line on the hill. Keep hills free-flowing and avoid 'Teletubby' mounds.



The Pale Olive is applied to the foreground of the landscape to the left panel, while the right-hand panel foreground is treated to Mossy Green - ideal for representing a moorland. The white horizontal line represents baseboard level, everything beneath which would be hidden from view. Painting these simplistic landscapes brings back the old Bob Ross adage of Have Some More Fun – Horizon, Sky, Middle and Foreground - the preferential order in which to paint. Comparing the two backscenes, the one to the left is more muted with a rationalised sky, making it easier to paint for the less confident, though hopefully, even the one to the right with more cloud coverage will be found not to clash with layout scenery.

Adding buildings



Earthy Clay and Parched Earth are used to create outline shapes of a church, barn and shed in the distance. I painted these free-hand with a flat brush to create sharper edges, but remember to create an impression of something in the distance. Ultimate accuracy isn't essential here. Remember to use muted colours.



Distant hedges can be created by stippling green to create rounded shapes. Wipe most of the paint from the brush on your palette or some paper towel before doing this, to prevent splodges of colour.



Roofs are painted a slate colour, though on reflection, perhaps this colour is a little dark for buildings so far away. Hindsight is wonderful!



Distant hedgerows or trees can hide a multitude of sins, though use them carefully. Although very basic and painted in just a few minutes with little to no artistic skill, when viewed from a distance, they appear acceptable. When blended into the layout with scatter and flock material to the foreground, and with the addition of a sky, I'm sure many modellers will be pleased with their results. With more practice before commencing on a larger project, satisfying results can be achieved. I'd encourage you to try painting your own, regardless of your agility with paint brushes.

BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING AWARDS 2020

't's time for the prestigious BRM awards, which gives you, the modeller, the chance to vote for your favourite models and manufacturers for the year. 2020 has been a ▲ different year and some supplies of new models have been affected but there has still been a lot of variety and quality from our favourites. They have battled through adversity to bring these to us, as have the retailers across the country. Maybe we've had a little more time to enjoy the fruits of their labours, too.

Stage one – Nominations (22 January - 12 February)

Manufacturers who released any ready-to-run items between January 1 and December 31 2020 will automatically have their products, and themselves, added to the voting list in the relevant categories for N, OO and O gauge locomotives and rolling stock but we need your help in nominating entries in the following categories. We will then choose the top entries to go through to the voting stage.



Retailer Customer Service Award

This isn't just where you've bought most from but for the retailer who has given you the highest standard of service over the last year.

Layout of the Year

Quite simply the best layout you may have seen at exhibitions, in the magazine, or online this year.

Modeller of the Year

Please nominate the modeller who has helped or inspired you the most this year.

Once the nomination process is complete, in February we will invite everyone to vote for their favourite models and the shortlisted nominations in the categories above.

After voting, you will have the opportunity to be entered into our prize draw and receive our regular newsletter updates with the latest news and offers. Our prizes include a choice of some of the excellent models that appear in the BRM awards (pictured below); a Bachmann Class 20/3 in DRS livery, a Bachmann 1P 1532 Class, or a Graham Farish Class 31.

The results will be announced during our next virtual show in March, on World of Railways and RMweb and in our BRM April issue, where we will also talk to the winners to get their reactions.





Cast your vote for a chance to win one of these great prizes!





Andy York looks at how we might better set the scene on our layouts. Don't just go for an off the peg solution, he says, but make something that suits your part of the railway world.

t's fair to say that the worst kind of backscene is no backscene at all. Perhaps your mind's eye can screen out the rest of the world behind the baseboard. However, if you have an exhibition layout, something is very definitely better than nothing. Even at home, some kind of backscene would be better than the floral curtains or the bookshelves...

PLAIN BACKSCENES

If you are not artistic, or you don't wish to go the expense of a bespoke backscene, even plain-painted boards or a roll are better than nothing. Some layouts feature simple neutral sky tones, which can be





If you are not artistic, or you don't wish to go the expense of a bespoke backscene, even plain-painted boards or roll are better than nothing.

useful for urban environments with spaces between buildings. This is preferable to something that might not look right from the perspective of the viewer.

A can of a pale blue spray paint and a white primer works well, but maybe experiment on a large piece of paper first. Try to use paler tones at the bottom of the scene graduating to darker shades at the top to give a sense of distance.

PRE-PRINTED BACKSCENES

There are some very good ready-made backscenes – Gaugemaster stocks a wide range to suit different environments and various scales. An 8ft length starts around the £8 mark, but think about how you will join the sheets and what to mount them onto. I suggest using a spray glue, which allows the paper to be re-positioned. Always start at one end and use a cloth to smooth the paper down onto the boards so that you don't get ugly bubbles and wrinkles in the sky!

ARTISTRY

Why not have a go at painting your own backscene? It's not as difficult as you may think, as a lot can be achieved with emulsion paint and big brushes for the sky and sponge and brushwork for vegetation. **BRM** August 2015 (See pocketmags.com/BRM) includes

numerous tutorials, hints and tips from someone I regard highly in backscene art – Ron North of the High Wycombe & District Model Railway Society.

USING PHOTOGRAPHS

There's nothing better than a backscene that is readily identifiable with the location being modelled. If you are not great with a paintbrush it may be worth tackling it from a more technical perspective and making your own photographic backscene. This certainly worked on the BRM/RMweb project layout 'Black Country Blues', with many people saying "I know where that is!" Here are a few tips to get you started:

- A bright but overcast day can often give good results, but strong or low sunlight can give awkward shadows to deal with.
- What season do you want the backscene to represent? There's no point in taking a series of pictures in winter if all your trees on the layout are in full leaf, for example.
- Consider the extreme left and right positions of the scene you want to capture and take your photos when the light is behind you.
- Work out the exposures needed to correctly capture each frame of the scene. Choose the most appropriate exposure that you can use for the whole scene without changing it.



DIGITAL EDITION EXCLUSIVE

- Mount the camera on a tripod to ensure that all of the shots are level and the horizon lines up as accurately as possible.
- Zoom in as much as you can, but try to include the upper and lower limits of the scene to capture as much detail as possible.
- Manually focus on a fixed distance with a narrow aperture (i.e. a high F-number) to gain the best depth-of-field. All of the scene needs to be in focus.
- Use a shutter-release cable, or the camera's timer, to minimize any vibration or movement. This will reduce the risk of blurring, which is especially important at long zoom lengths.
- Take the first shot on the left and include what will be just 'off-scene' as a reference point. It can always be cropped out later.
- Move the camera to the right in stages, overlapping the previous shot by about fifty percent. This is so that the software stands the best chance of aligning the pictures.
- Take the final shot on the right to include what will be just 'off-scene'. Once again, this can be cropped out later.
- Re-take all those shots again, just so you have some spare frames if needed. It's easier to do this now rather than having to return on another day.
- Re-take the scene with slightly different exposures a little under and a little over, to make sure you have enough back-up shots. This might also reveal a little more detail in the sky or landscape.

STITCHING IMAGES

Once you have your pictures transfer them to the computer. You'll need some software to blend them together. Microsoft's Image Composite Editor is free to download – just search for Microsoft ICE.

The software compares all of the images and blends them together giving you the base panorama. After that you will need some image editing software to crop the image, adjust brightness, colour saturation and sharpness. Adobe Photoshop is the industry standard, but free alternatives such as GNU Image Manipulation Program (also known as GIMP) are easy to download and install.

If you have the digital version of this issue I have made a video to demonstrate the following steps:

• Create a blank image of the size of the backscene you want to make, such as the overall length plus the depth of the two ends of the layout.

FORCED PERSPECTIVE





- Import your saved panorama into this and re-size it to the dimensions of the backscene. Don't worry about what's outside the scope at the top and bottom, just concentrate on what is visible across the width of the scene.
- Adjust the exposure, colour balance and sharpness to suit.
- Drop in additional layers to haze or subdue the backscene. You don't want it too vivid if you are trying to suggest distance.
- Adjust the horizon height to suit what will look best with your layout, and the height it is to be viewed from – but don't make

- the backscene horizon too high!
- Edit out elements that are obtrusive or incongruous.
- Consider the sort of material you want the backscene printing onto; paper to stick to backboards or a vinyl which can be unrolled and hung for exhibition usage.
- Phone around some printers to get prices for printing the scene.

If you want to try the process of stitching a backscene together with Microsoft ICE and image editing software we have provided some files for you to play with – see rmweb. co.uk/photobackscene

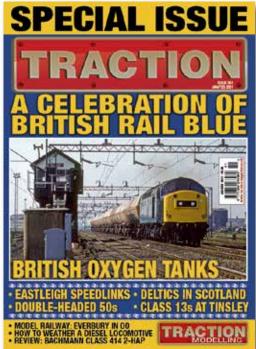
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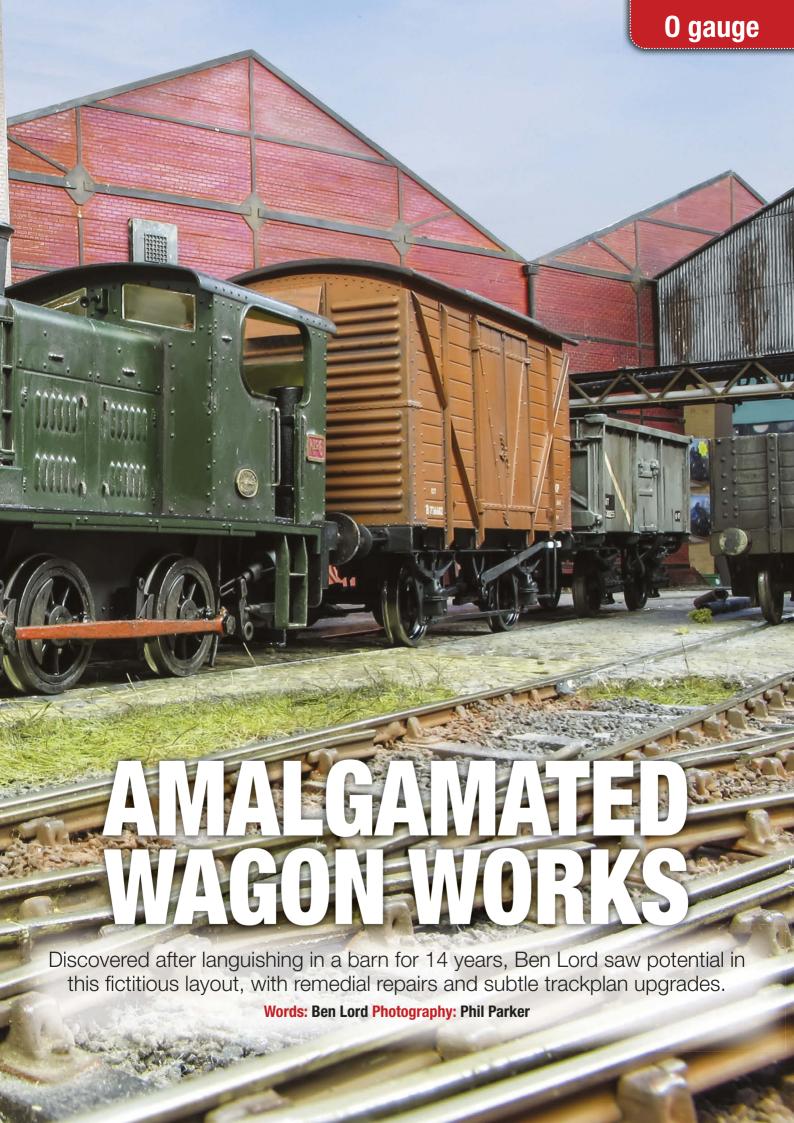




Leave us a review

If you have enjoyed this magazine then do the next thing to shouting it from the rooftops and leave us a review instead! We all like to know when something is good and if something has been rated highly by others. Leave is a review to let others know what you think of BRM.





LAYOUT FOCUS

et on a rainy autumn afternoon, 'Amalgamated Wagon Works', or 'Am Wag' as it's more affectionately known, depicts an industrial railway scene sometime in the 1930s or 1960s. The railway is a small local wagon repair shop specialising in repairing, refurbishing and building railway wagons. The layout isn't based on a specific region or place - such scenes could be found all over the country. Most large towns or industrial works would have had an area for carrying out servicing work to the many thousands of rolling stock items in use on the railway network. While the buildings are reminiscent of those found in the North, they aren't based on any one location - it's the rolling stock and road vehicles that set the time and place.

I work as a special needs teacher. I am a husband and a father of two young boys, therefore my time is at a premium. Any spare time I have, I like to relax by making models. In the past, I have enjoyed making military dioramas; painting, sticking the model to a base trying to recreate the picture on the box. Once completed, this diorama would then go on a shelf, only to be knocked off and smashed by an inquisitive cat or an over-enthusiastic spring clean. Around the time my first child was born, I thought I needed to find a new hobby and stumbled into model railways. While not at first being particularly interested in railways, I realised that my interest in realism and researching the history of an object could be met through the hobby of model railways, with the added bonus of each completed model being a part of a larger overall scene.

Layout origins

The layout was started in the late 1990s as an experiment by Rochdale Model Railway Group as a change from their usual 4mm layouts. The layout was designed to fit on two 4ft x 2ft boards and fit in the back of a Ford Focus hatchback, while still giving

room for two operators and luggage. The baseboards are standard 4in x 2in softwood frames with 9mm ply on top that are held inversely, with end protectors making a self-contained box. The buildings are 3mm ply shells with either Das clay or Plastikard sheets stuck to them. Interestingly, the corrugated shed uses 4mm:1ft scale Wills sheets, which I believe looks better than the 7mm:1ft scale ones. The track has been hand-built from C&L components to an amazing standard and points are controlled by the wire in tube method. The layout was shown a few times, then mothballed for approximately 14 years, until I acquired it.

After removing the layout from the barn and setting it up in my garage, it was apparent just how well built it was. The buildings and track had suffered a little damage and the Das clay carved cobbles had chipped and lifted in parts but, as a whole, it had lasted really well - a testament to its original builders. I was keen to investigate

A fireless locomotive waits next to the office building. These locomotives ran on compressed air and the model has been made from an Eric Underhill kit.



why a layout built to such a high standard was so detestable to operate.

Lights, Camera, Action

After a few hours of operating the layout, I realised the original trackplan didn't have an operation focus or story. Stock was continuously shunted around the layout, but it never left the scene. Operation over a short time became very monotonous. After helping to operate other exhibition layouts, I quickly realised that the performance of a layout is similar to a theatre production. With the rolling stock as the actors, they tell a story in the scene of the layout. Stock needs to enter the layout, perform a duty, then be taken off-stage to the wings or fiddle/preparing board. 'Am Wag' didn't have this function, therefore the story became lost.

After making a simple fiddle yard, trains of wagons could be brought onto the board, broken up and sent to different areas. Goods could be dropped off, wagons taken into a repair shop, or newly-repaired wagons brought on scene via the sector plate. The train could then be remade in the holding siding, ready to be collected and taken off-scene. While this sounds simple, the inclusion of a runaround track and reverse siding can't be overlooked as this, together with a turntable, adds complexity to the proceeding, which makes it interesting to operate.

Enhancements

After the layout began to function, I looked to update the scenic sections. After seeing pictures of industrial yards, I realised they were busy and scruffy places! I wanted the feel of a real hard working yard with the detritus of broken and abandoned engineering around. Being a Northerner, life is usually spent in damp overcast weather and I find that this is rarely modelled. A pristine chocolate box view just wouldn't have felt right. I, therefore, raided my scrap box, together with bits of Lego and broken toys, and began painting the bits using only a limited palette of colours - red, blue and green, before being dry-brushed with a dirty brown. This was then scattered around, with some scrunched up dried leaves. Figures from various manufacturers were added in realistic positions, producing little cameo scenes along with boxes and packing cases from the extensive Skytrex range.

I think the layout works because thought has been given to what stock and vehicles you can find on it. I particularly like the



The layout features many barrels and crates from the Skytrex resin-cast range. Cobblestones have been scribed in dried Das clay



Figures are used sparingly throughout the layout, but help create small cameo scenes such as this one, where a dog is biting the driver's leg!

variation of stock found in the pre-war eras - local wagon owners with their bright liveries, interesting moving advertisement boards. However, I also like the look of early diesel locomotives and wooden-bodied wagons looking distressed at the end of their lives. To meet this requirement, scenic items have been purposely left ambiguous and dateable items such as road vehicles can easily be swapped when stock from a different era wants to be run. Road vehicles are from the ready-to-run ranges such as Corgi that have been lightly weathered and toned down to blend into the scene.

At the end of the day, the process of

building a plastic wagon kit is really therapeutic. It's great to switch off from the world and get absorbed in sticking and painting. A layout like 'Am Wag' doesn't require a great deal of stock, therefore you can be choosy about what you buy. This is particularly relevant when you consider the cost of O gauge stock. However, this is balanced out by the fact that you don't need as much.

I usually spend around £30 per wagon, and again use a simple colour palette to weather. My preferred paints are Citadel acrylics from the Games Workshop. I have had a go at building locomotive kits, but

LAYOUT FOCUS

I prefer to use the excellent ready-to-run locomotives available, which, when suitably weathered, run well and look fantastic.

Exhibiting success

I was initially daunted by the prospect of

exhibiting a layout, but this has been a wonderful experience. I came to the world of modeling from a solitary position but as the layout was always intended to be exhibited, and initially had been taken to a few shows, I decided to get it to one. I received an invitation to a local show, and after a number of test runs putting up and taking

down, it paid off.

After more than 20 exhibitions, I can safely say the formula for the layout really works. 'Am Wag' is operated from behind, giving an uninterrupted view of the scene. The fiddle yard screen has information about the locomotives being run, which people enjoy reading. The layout is well-lit





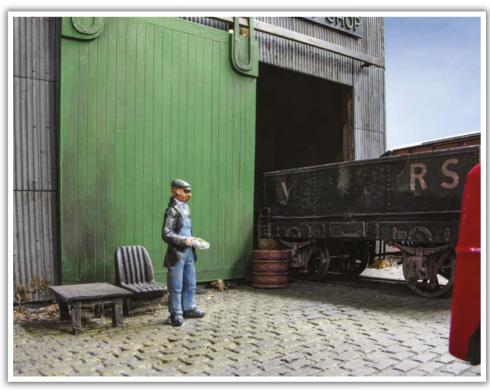
LAYOUT FOCUS

come towards the end of its life on the exhibition circuit as I have done all the local shows around my area. However, one can never say never!

Future projects

I am currently building a small colliery layout with a similar cameo format to 'Am Wag'. However, I want to try to get the scenic section on one board, again using stock to set the place and era.

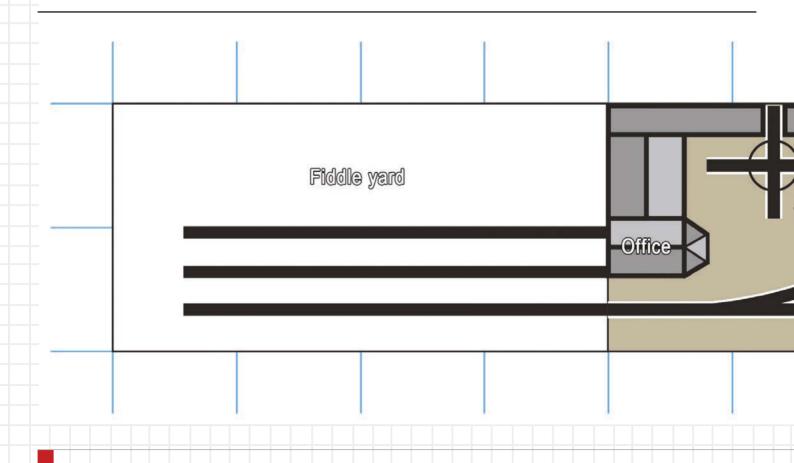
I have learned so much from owning and operating 'Am Wag' that I now feel confident to try building another layout from scratch. If you are new to modelling, or like me, short on time, when layouts become available to buy, doing so is certainly a way to get into railway modeling and I would encourage anyone to try it. For me, this has opened up a new pastime and a social circle and I am hugely grateful to the members of Rochdale Model Railway Group for their help along the way.

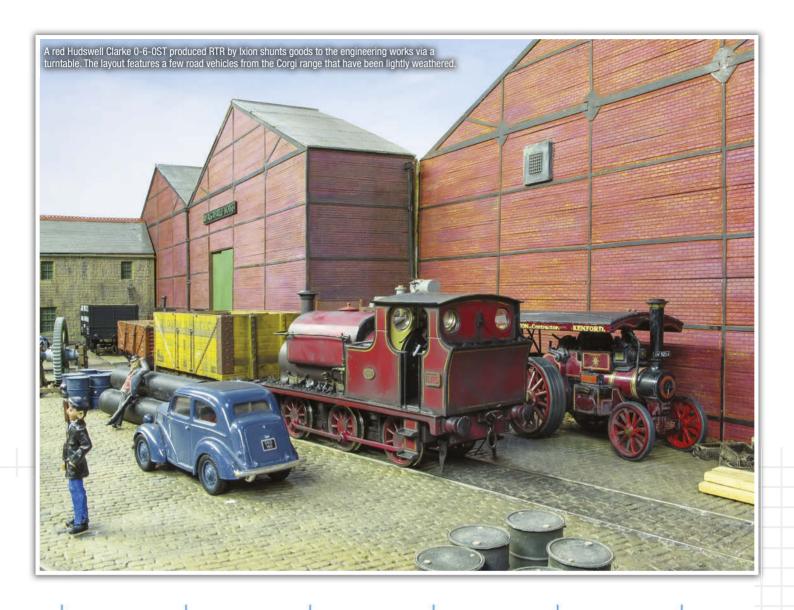


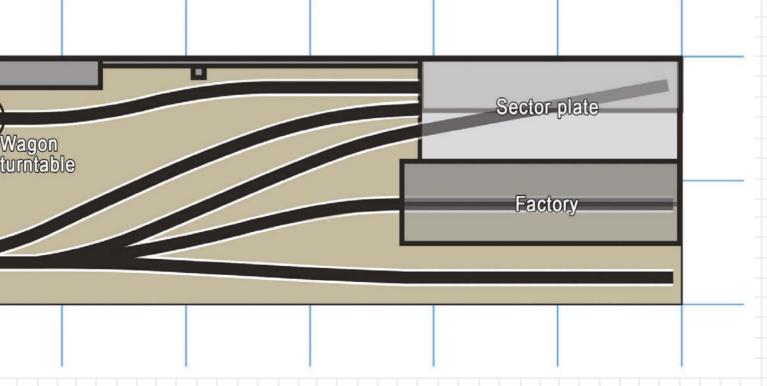
After reading his paper, a worker stands to work on a tatty tar wagon which has been dropped off at the repair shop.

Trackplan

AMALGAMATED WAGON WORKS





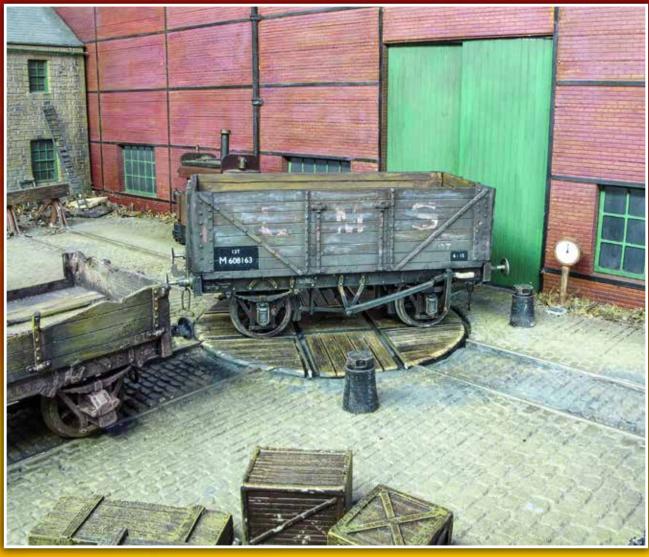




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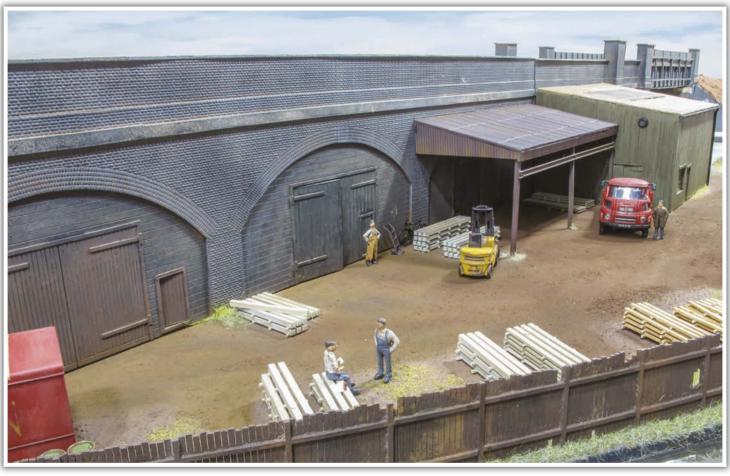




HOW TO... MAKE A TIMBER YARD COMPLEX

Words & photography: Phil Parker

Nearing the completion of his 'Selly Oak' layout project, Phil Parker transforms this awkward triangular space into a thriving 1970s West Midlands timber merchants.



'm always coming up with scenes for model railway layouts and glibly saying L that they will make excellent space-fillers for odd-shaped sites, but end up building them on easy-to-store rectangular boards. Well, this month I have a site to fill, and it's definitely an awkward shape.

For my 'Selly Oak' project, there is an area in front of the viaduct that is sandwiched between a canal and the main road. This is the situation in real life, and the space was

originally filled with wharf side industries and later an industrial estate. Sadly, apart from a few photographs taken around the canal, there is next to nothing in the way of information to show what was there.

To confuse matters more, the space on the model is considerably smaller than in real life. The design gives priority to space for trains and buses, but everything else has to fit in around them. So, even if I had the information. I would have to invent a scene

to fit the site, rather than replicate real life.

One photograph, from a local newspaper website, shows a large green building belonging to Vincent Timber Sales, so I've based my ideas on this. Vincent's had premises on either side of the viaduct and were considered a bit of a local landmark, and by using them for inspiration, I hope to spark a few memories from those who remember buying their model railway baseboard wood from there.

The firm still exists, but on a more modern site away from the railway.

Much as I enjoy kit-bashing, it just seemed easier, quicker and certainly cheaper to scratch-build everything. The one kit I used, a laser-cut barn, is chosen because it's a generic shape that I could cover in a way that matches the rest of the models.

Working this way allows me to trade



The site I need to fill on the layout is triangular, bounded by a canal, viaduct and road. To get a feel for the buildings I'll need, some mock-ups are thrown together and left for a few days to see if they look OK. This stage is more art than science.



All the parts slot together easily enough and are fixed with PVA glue. The joists are a very tight fit in the sides and, since my model is to have a full roof, I'll only put one in. I'm sure the others will come in useful for another project.



Once the rust is dry, the model is treated to a thick coat of hair spray followed by a dusting of grey car primer. This is scrubbed with a damp old toothbrush, which lifts some of the primer to let the rust show through. A few more washes with the Lifecolor paint and it's time to fit the door

money for time. Most of the materials were in my stock, and even if I'd had to buy everything, the price would have been about the same as a few OO gauge coaches. OK, it took quite a bit of time - something many of us find ourselves with plenty of at the moment - but since modelling is fun, that's a good thing, isn't it?

The most important thing to remember is



Mock-up buildings shouldn't be very detailed, although there is something to be said for drawing windows and doors on to ensure the dimensions make sense. Mine are nothing more than rough shapes made from cereal packet card stuck together with masking tape. The proportions are adjusted with scissors until I'm happy.



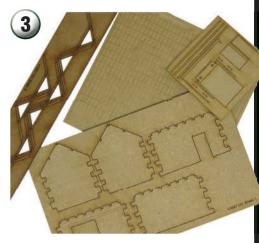
Individual pieces of vac-formed corrugated plastic sheet from Southeastern Finecast are fixed to the sides with UHU. More cereal packet card fills in the roof before it's also covered with the corrugated iron.



For the slope-roof shed, I'm using Wills (SSMP213) Clapboard building plastic sheet. Strong enough to be structural, it has to be cut with a large craft knife from the textured side for a clean result. The corners are chamfered to 45-degrees by rubbing on an abrasive stick and then fixed together with plastic solvent.

if it looks right to you, it is right. You create the scene and can keep fiddling with it as long as you like.

It also helps if you spend a bit of time looking at scruffy industrial sites - I find old TV episodes of The Professionals and The Sweeney helpful from this point of view since my model is set in the 1970s when they were filmed.



Having decided to use a Scale Model Scenery barn kit, I unpacked it to take a look. The main structure is thick MDF with thin laserboard overlays for the door and a full set of roof joists, should you want to model the building in a state of disrepair.



Weathering starts with coats of red oxide car primer. Several shades from the Lifecolor Rust Magic acrylic paint set are randomly splodged all over with a sponge, ensuring they mix on the model.



The front is 2mm thick plastic sheet with all the doors engraved in the surface using an Olfa Plastic cutter. It's important to plan the order in which lines are scribed, but mistakes can be rectified with either filler or a small piece of plastic fixed with solvent, then sanded back

PRACTICAL BRM



Hinge details are lengths of Microstrip and not that detailed. In the overall scene, this doesn't matter. Roofing is Wills (SSMP219) Asbestos sheet. Take care to fit this the right way around. The overlaps should allow rain to run off and not under a sheet.



Smaller doors are cut out and then replacements are scribed and fitted behind the doorways. Windows come from the Wills (SS42) details pack - you can make them yourself, but it's hard to beat injection-moulded plastic items for neatness



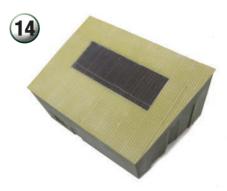
Spindly metal awning supports really need to be made of metal if the model is to survive transport and handling. so I'm using Albion Alloys' square brass tube soldered together for the main frame. A decorative extra support is added from Plastruct channel, held in place with Peco track pins and superglue.



When fixing the frame in place, it pays to make sure the legs are vertical. If they are wonky, it will stand out and annoy you later. I'll square up the canopy when I glue it to the wall



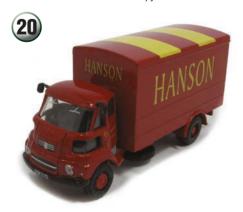
A coat of track colour followed by a dry-brush of earth colour nicely replicates the look of a creosoted building that is showing its age. A little green along the bottom edges shows rising damp, but don't overdo it.



The roof is more asbestos sheet with a hole cut in the middle to allow light into the structure. This is covered with Wills (SSMP223) Clear Sheet. Since I haven't modelled an interior, this receives a few matt varnish coats to make it translucent, but you can't see through it.



Wills (SSMP213) corrugated iron sheets might be strong enough for the canopy, but they aren't big enough! The joint between two sheets is braced with thin plastic, but so the framing fits properly, packing pieces of the same material are fitted where the canopy sits on it.



Storage comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. This Base Toys' lorry will undergo a prototypical transformation. First, it's taken apart by undoing the cross-head screws underneath and treating the paintwork to some matt varnish



The largest building is made of wood, and for this, I like to use 2mm thick Daler board card. The surface provides just the right amount of texture and it's easy to scribe with a blunt tool or even heavy use of a sharp pencil. The doors are partially cut through so they can be folded back slightly to hint at an interior.



The only colour reference shows this building to be green, so I picked a suitably dull shade and then gave it a wash with dark grey acrylic for weathering. The windows are glazed with Deluxe Materials Glue'n'Glaze. Like the roof, this gives the appearance of transparency, but you can't look through easily.



Short lengths of Albion Alloys' brass rod are fixed in the bottom of the legs with superglue. These will locate into holes drilled in the baseboard to hold the model firmly in place.



A new flatbed is scratch-built from plastic sheet scribed with the Olfa cutter. Underneath the bed, some supports keep it above the mudguard and are fixed to the metal chassis with superglue. This has been painted black -I'm pretty sure red is just a production expediency for the model



After a rub with a fibreglass pencil, the box body is drybrushed with red enamel let down with a touch of pale grey so it looks suitably sun-worn. Dirt is simply a wash of thinned dark brown paint and then it's ready for a new life as a store dumped in the corner of the yard.



Sawdust will stick to paint, but not sink it. Patting the surface with the side of a large brush turns it into a wonderful texture mix that can be spread around.



It's important to work right up to the edges of the buildings, but keep a wet brush handy to wash any mud off the surfaces. You'll almost certainly leave a very slight brown tint doing this, but that just adds to the



Photographs show the area was pretty overgrown, so the edges of the yard are treated with electrostatic grass using a mixture of colours and fibre lengths. For small bushes, Greenscene foliage mat is teased out and sprinkled with light green scatter powder that is secured with hair lacquer.



Looking at a local architectural salvage yard, the road surfaces seem to be little more than compacted mud. Even if there is any tarmac under there, it would be pretty filthy, so I start work with some brown emulsion matchpots applying the paint with an old brush and a sponge.



It's important that the texture varies around the yard so coarse mix is found at the edges and finer stuff elsewhere. High traffic areas are brushed to be almost smooth so show the mud is heavily compacted.



While the paint is still wet, fix the buildings down with PVA glue. Wiggle the model slightly as it's put in place and the paint will hide any gaps around the bottom. Place a weight on top so the glue can fix the building in place.



On its own, paint doesn't have enough texture, so I sieve a couple of grades of sawdust into it. The finer stuff is the residue from sanding a wooden floor years ago. Around the edges, I use something coarser leftover from sawing up logs in the garden. There's no need to let useful scenic materials go to waste.



We don't want any brush strokes showing, so they are patted away with a small piece of sponge. Depending on how fast the paint dries, this will add a tiny bit of texture. It will certainly blend the different shades of brown paint.



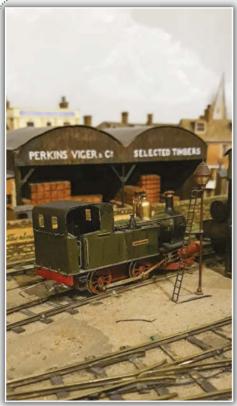
1970s Birmingham canals weren't the neatly-presented waterways we see today. Industrial areas were edged with scruffy wooden fences, perfectly replicated by Scale Model Scenery Old Wooden Fencing. This has been customised as shown in the January 2021 BRMTV.

Keep your grass on the ground

Electrostatic grass gets everywhere, so it's important to remove glue from anywhere you don't want it permanently fixed

I use PVA glue to stick the grass down, but this needs to dry slightly before flocking, so I use the time to wash walls down to remove any glue on the brickwork. The grass won't stick to any residue as it will be too thin. Now, any fibres can be removed with a stiff paintbrush once the glue has dried.





A classic timber yard

A classic timber yard that many will be familiar with, is seen on John Ahern's 'Madder Valley Railway', now on display at Pendon Museum.

The barrel-roofed, open-fronted storage sheds are a very common design. While protecting from the worst of the elements, there is still plenty of airflow around the timber being stored.

Ratio produces a plastic kit based on this design. I looked at it but felt that, while a nice model, it didn't look right for 1970s Birmingham. Altering it to fit my oddshaped site would have been challenging, too.



Larger bushes are small pieces of Greescene "Forest in a box" fixed with PVA and lightly treated to some scatter. Don't cover it too heavily, we want the branches to stand



My stacks of wood come from an Auhagen Treasure Chest pack. Each layer is a plastic moulding and painted with a wash of Lifecolor Weathered Wood acrylic paint before being fixed together. I've varied the number of layers and even removed the odd plank.



Producing your own wood piles from plastic is simple, but time-consuming. Making them as neat as the commercial items eluded me, too, although they look OK. It's certainly cheap as I used up offcuts left over from other jobs.



We'll need a forklift truck to move the wood and options are limited in 4mm scale. A Base Toys' model is given a wash of dirty colour and has its safety cage removed. We didn't worry about such things back in the '70s it seems.



The finishing touch is the addition of some signs made using the computer and stuck to thin plastic with spray glue. I've had to make up the text as the only prototype photograph showing these is very blurry. Job complete!

Prototype Inspiration

Timber yards are common enough around the country, so if you fancy building a model, it's worth paying a visit to one to get the feel of the place.

One of the more unusual is Curtiss Timber Merchants, which is found on the roadside near Lapworth, Warwickshire. They deal in treated, exterior timber so the stacks don't need the same separation to allow airflow through them as other wood, but it still needs to be kept off the ground.

The clapboard building provided the inspiration for the sloping roof shed on my model. I've tried to copy the weathering in miniature. This yard has existed for over half a century and the buildings show plenty of locally-made modifications in that time.





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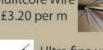
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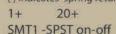


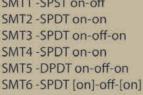


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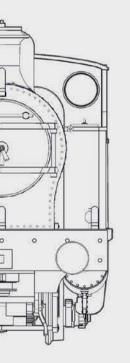
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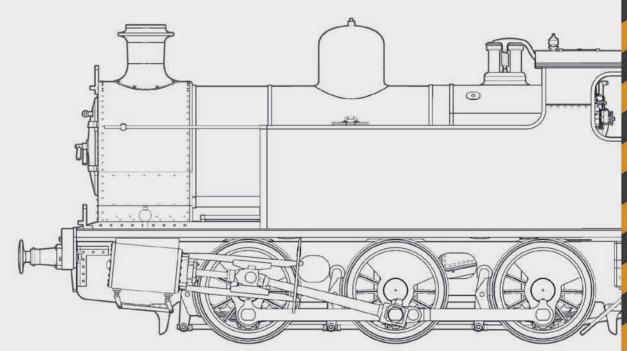
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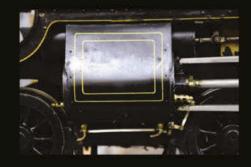
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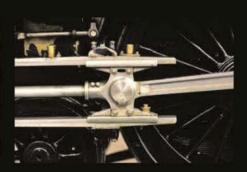












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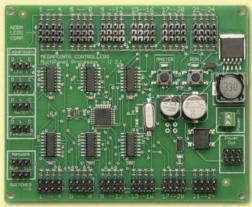
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NEW PRODUCTS DEXTER'S COVE 3D-PRINTED SER SIGNAL BOX

Continuing its theme of signal box kit releases, Dexter's Cove has added a new variant, depicting a square SER 'box closely based on those previously seen at Hythe and Sandgate for 3mm:1ft, 4mm:1ft and 7mm:1ft modellers. Measuring 50mm x 50mm in 4mm:1ft scale, the laser-cut and engraved plastic multi-media kit is enhanced with resin details. The model can be customised with a choice of left- or right-handed door and stairs, and an optional porch. The roof is a single piece of 3D-printed high-resolution plastic.

Price: N: £25, TT: £28, 0: £45



SUPERCAST CUSTOMISEABLE TOTEM STATION SIGNS

Model figure specialist, Supercast, is offering a range of customisable totem signs alongside its range of 00 gauge model accessories. Totems measure 2in in length and purchasers can select a number of foil-blocked station names from its existing catalogue of predominantly BR Southern Region and London station names, or alternatively, specify a custom name to be produced to order. The new items can be purchased from the Supercast model shop, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, via mail order, or on 01843 593 417.

rice: totems: £4.99, custom name totems: £6.99



LEGACY MODELS (LM-PP.4) POWERPOINT DOWELS

Legacy Models, sister company to DCC Concepts, has released a new product that aligns baseboards and conducts electricity. Designed to eliminate 'between board' connections for DCC users when used to connect bus wires together, the dowels can also be used on simple DC-controlled layouts, too. Working like a plug and socket, connectors are gold-plated for corrosion-resistance and electrical conductivity, with the male connector sprung to guarantee reliable contact. Connections are rated at more than 5A of power and are compatible with DCC Concepts' baseboard dowels. Sold in packs of two (LM-PP.2) or four (LM-PP.4).

rice: Twin-pack: £18.95, Four-pack: £34.95

: www.dccconcepts.com



4D MODELSHOP TREE BUNDLE PACKS 4D Modelshop is offering a new model tree bundle service for N and 00 scale

4D Modelshop is offering a new model tree bundle service for N and 00 scale railway modellers. Offered in mixed groups of 12, the trees include a mixture of species, sizes and colours, which provides modellers with a 10% saving over individually-purchased trees. Packs contain: 1x Copper beech (42mm), 1x Lime (50mm), 1x Oak (50mm), 1x Silver Birch (60mm), 2x light green trees (42mm and 50mm), 4x medium green trees (50mm, 50mm, 60mm, 75mm), and 2x dark green trees (42mm & 50mm). The shop's scenic accessory team already offers a custom tree manufacturing service using its online configurator, where customers can specify tree species, foliage and bark colour and the height of the tree to be made. **Price:** £39.69

W: www.modelshop.co.uk

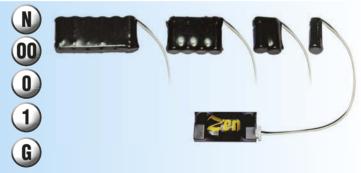


BRIMAL COMPONENTS (SS600) SOUND CONTROLLER Brimal Components has released its SS600 Sound Controller, a device that accepts Micro

Brimal Components has released its SS600 Sound Controller, a device that accepts Micro SD cards onto which custom .wav files are loaded. Included in the packaging with the Sound Controller is an SD card, pre-loaded with a choice of steam, diesel or underground sounds, six 6mm x 2mm magnets and six reed switches. 15 sounds of your choice can be loaded onto the SD card from a number of pre-recorded sounds available from the retailer. Further SD cards loaded with sounds can be purchased from the manufacturer at additional cost. New sound cards are installed into the card reader and the unit must follow a sequence to load sounds, instructions for which are provided.

Price: £195.00

W: www.bclstore.co.uk



DCC CONCEPTS ZEN STAY-ALIVE UNITS

DCC Concepts has released a new range of Stay-Alive units, designed to provide back-up power to DCC decoders in the event of intermittent power loss, owing to faulty or dirty pick-ups or track. Units are compact for smaller locomotive bodies, while also offering modellers more space inside their locomotives for other features. Designed to be simple to install, each item from its ZEN three-wire Stay-Alive range plugs into a Zen Black or Blue+decoder via the integrated Control board. The 'run-on' time can be adjusted via CV65 of the decoder and can be set in 5 steps: 0 = default, which allows it to run on for the maximum time available, then 1 = 0.5, 2 = 1.0, 3 = 1.5, and 4 = 2.0 seconds. Multi-packs and variety-packs are available. See its website or your local stockist for more details.

Price: Small: £25.95, Medium: £27.95, Large: £28.95, High-power: £29.95

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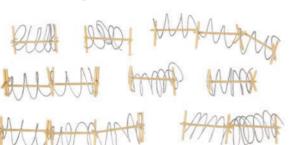
LEGACY MODELS (LM-iD) INTELLIGENT DETECTOR

Arriving in stock with DCC Concepts and its retail network is the LM-iD Detector from Legacy Models. This detector promises simple installation and reliable detection as its main features. LM-iD detects anything that alters the electrical state in a track section. Examples are powered items such as locomotives, illuminated coaches or rolling stock with resistant wheelsets – even a single tail lamp or a lamp in a guard's van. Feedback outputs can be connected to control panel LEDs, or a computer automation system, for instance. Wires can be connected to the labelled screw-terminal PCB, so no soldering is required. The manufacturer has designed the new device to work with one wire, an isolation gap in a rail, and re-routing an existing dropper wire.

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W: www.dccconcepts.com

GAUGEMASTER (GM441) FORDHAMPTON MILITARY BARBED WIRE



Whether guarding the entrance to a military location, or out in the field during a conflict, barbed wire has been commonly used to slow down enemy troops from reaching strategic locations. Falling under its Fordhampton range of injection-moulded products, Gaugemaster's kit provides an injection-moulded trellis structure around which can be placed the wire coils. Also of use in roadblocks, areas of civil unrest, during a riot or a protest, perhaps? Measuring 10mm x 10mm, each section is 25mm in length. Price: £10.50

W: www.gaugemasterretail.com

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This versatile kit allows modellers to build variable height arched retaining walls to any length, including left and right sloped, or ramped versions. The kit features prototypical concave arch infills and soffits. Available to download and print from its website to N or OO scale, simply choose from red, dark red, brown, dark brown, dark blue, ashlar or random ashlar textures, each with realistic grime and limescale weathering. Instructions for assembly, once printed at home, are provided. £3.99

www.scalescenes.com

GAUGEMASTER (GM442) FORDHAMPTON SANDBAGS





Containing an impressive 200 individual injection-moulded plastic sandbags, this kit can be adapted to suit a number of applications. From military use around bunkers, anti-aircraft defences or checkpoints, these bags could also see civilian use as flood defences, or, painted to represent bags of fertiliser around farms, in coal yards as bags of coal, or around a D.I.Y. store as compost, cement or peat. For best appearance, painting is recommended.

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BAGNALL LOCOMOTIVE GROUP DAPOL 10T VENTILATED VAN EXCLUSIVE



Arriving in stock with the Bagnall Locomotive Group, owners of Bagnall Austerity No. 2746 at Wirksworth, is a 10T ventilated van commission from Dapol. Based on the Will Hay classic, Oh Mr Porter, the fictitious livery refers to the villain of the story - One Eyed Joe, who set out to smuggle guns across the border from a disused windmill. Proceeds from sales go towards the restoration and repair of No. 2746, which is said to be nearing completion. Limited to 188 examples.

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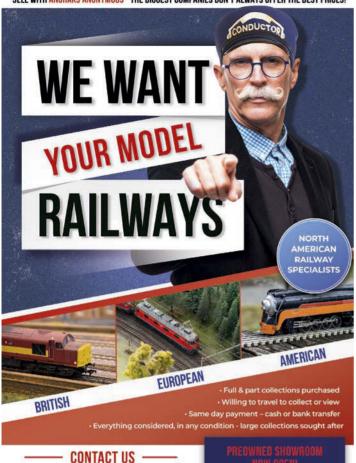


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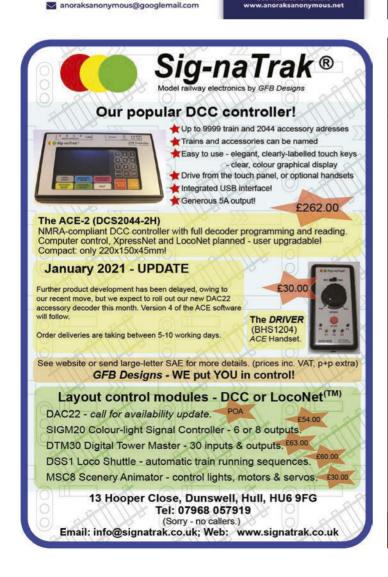


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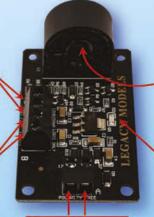
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HORNBY PRE-GROUPING COACHES

Words & photography: Phil Parker



ncreasing numbers of modellers are being tempted away from recreating the railways that they remember, often tired, run-down and steam-free, towards the bright and attractive pre-grouping world. Rapido's Stirling Single, Bachmann's 1P and Hornby's 'Terrier' offer options for suitable motive power, but the problem has always been assembling a realistic passenger train.

In the past, pre-grouping coaches were left to those capable of assembling venerable plastic, or etched-brass kits, and then tackling the complex liveries they need to wear. To make a credible job, you need to be skilled and even then, the building process would be laborious.

To make things more complicated, many early railway companies produced their own coaching stock, or bought it in, but rarely to the same design as their contemporaries.

Looking at the tiny potential market, it's little wonder that RTR manufacturers ignored it. Until now.

In its 2021 announcements, Hornby stunned everyone by revealing a range of four and six-wheel coaches, produced in a variety of attractive liveries. Not only that, but the models are planned to be in stock before Easter, and we received a review sample in December.

What we have isn't a perfect replica of any specific coach. Instead, each vehicle is generic, but with options to tailor them to come closer to the prototype whose livery the model wears.

Looking at the four-wheel GNR coach, it is a traditional plastic model with separatelyfitted grab handles on the doors. Along the roof is a row of gas light tops, with the appropriate tanks underneath. Others in the

range are fitted with oil light tops, except for the SR and BR versions, which have torpedo

On the ends, we have steps and lamp irons. The latter are moulded with very little relief. Some modellers might look to replace them with something that matches the quality of the rest of the model. Separate wire handrails are fitted, but on the review model, they have been pushed into the holes perhaps a little too far - a scale guard would struggle to get a hand behind them.

Moving to the chassis, the footboards are supplied in the pack for the modeller to slot in if required, no glue being necessary to keep them in place. Metal representations of the wooden-centred Mansell coach wheels are fitted and painted to match the coach. Gas tanks and battery boxes are fitted as required. We don't have a six-wheel chassis

to test, but it will be interesting to see how Hornby has developed the Cleminson underframe required to allow the centre axle to move when the model runs on a curve.

Non-sprung metal buffers are fitted. These are chemically-blackened but the result is shiny and would benefit from some paint to match the vacuum pipes. Standard tensionlock couplings are fitted in NEM pockets.

Decoration is well up to the highest Hornby standards. In the past, the firm developed an impressive system to print teak, and it's used again here. Lining and lettering is spot on with no misalignment of the delicate and multi-coloured lettering and crests. The paint finish is very shiny and for layout use might benefit from a spray of satin varnish, although pre-grouping stock was kept cleaner than it was in the latter days of steam.

Liveries will be the main selling point for these models and, with nine different companies' colours offered, modellers are spoilt for choice.

The full range includes first, third and composite coaches, brake thirds and baggage vans, though not all variants are available in

all liveries.

Finally, the models have a 'party piece' because they can be purchased ready-fitted with lights. Hornby's new Maglight system uses small LEDs in a PCB fitted under the roof, powered by a button battery. These can be switched on and off with a magnet included in the pack. Battery life is claimed to be in excess of 200 hours.

Access to the battery involves unclipping the body from the chassis, best achieved by pulling the two apart on one side. Maglight is to be made available separately to retro-fit to these, and other coaches.

These coaches are sure to be popular with modellers. The fact they aren't a perfect replica of any particular coach isn't likely to be an issue for most. Keenly priced and very attractive, even if you don't model the correct period, they would work well as a vintage train on a preserved line. Anyone building an old branch line, now has the perfect stock with the added benefit that the short models (the four-wheel coach is 11.5cm long over the buffers) will make the layout look longer.

datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Hornby Hobbies Plc LIVERIES:

North British Railway crimson lake, Southern Railway olive green, London & North Eastern Railway teak, British Railways maroon, London & North Western Railway plum and spilt milk, London, Brighton & South Coast Railway mahogany, London South Western Railway salmon and brown

Great Northern Railway - Teak

Great Western Railway - Cream and brown

RRP: £29.99, £35.99 (with lights) Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76 scale

Era: 2-4

Weight: 64g (four-wheel coach)

Body and chassis: plastic

Couplings: NEM mounted tension-lock

Accessories: footboards







Hornby Coaches

Phil Parker examines one of Hornby's newly-announced generic pre-grouping coaches for a first look.

WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE (You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



ACCURASCALE JSA WAGONS

Words & photography: Andy York

▼inding itself with a need for additional steel coil carriers at the same time as a sizeable number of its JTA and JUA (formerly PTA) iron ore tippler wagons became surplus to requirements, in 1996 British Steel commissioned Marcroft Engineering of Stoke-on-Trent to rebuild 56 examples to convey coils for its Strip Products division. These wagons were outshopped with three-stage telescopic hoods and were painted blue with white text, in keeping with the company's famous branding.

These wagons were chiefly utilised on dedicated steel traffic flows emanating from Llanwern and Port Talbot, and on Enterprise diagrams serving the likes of Scunthorpe and Sheerness. Services included Margam to Dee Marsh, Llanwern, Ebbw Vale, Round Oak and Wolverhampton Steel Terminal, Newport area trips and various Enterprise services in the 1990s including Swansea - Newport, Newport - Warrington, Warrington - Tees Yard, Tees Yard -Middlesbrough, Immingham - Doncaster

and Margam, Sheerness - Mossend and others.

In the early 2000s, ownership of the wagons transferred to rolling stock leasing firm, VTG. Around this time, the original flush-sided plate steel hoods began to be re-panelled with a riveted aluminium skin, which bore the logo of the wagons' new owners. Throughout this time, the wagons continued to serve the sites for which they had been built on the same services.

In 2018, Arlington Fleet Services began to refurbish several JSA wagons at its Eastleigh workshops. As part of this process, the wagons had their hoods removed and entered traffic as open coil carriers on traffic flows from Margam to Llanwern and Corby. So far, more than 50 of these wagons have been outshopped, with more currently being converted at Eastleigh.

The wagons are available from Accurascale and their retail stockists in packs of two wagons for £59.95 with individual running numbers and decoration with three packs available in each of the

variants. The British Steel-liveried examples have smooth-surfaced welded hood sections while the silver VTG version features the later riveted style construction of canopy. The hoods can be slid along the chassis channels the full length of the wagons for posing in yard scenes and the modeller can then appreciate the level of internal detail. The structural sections on the ends are well captured, with the hook and handle used to lock the hoods in place being movable to release the hoods from their running position.

The detail pack includes an ample number of bars, which fit between the U-channels on either side of the wagon to space and secure the loads. The attention to detail is excellent with even these channels being handed so that the correct spacing markings correspond on opposite sides of the wagon. As they are a loose fit, a dab of glue on the ends of the bar would be advisable to ensure they stay looking tidy.

Below solebar level the customary level of Accurascale detail can be found with the



frames and braking system pipe detail. The BSC Axle Motion bogies have a pleasing accuracy and depth to them while being designed to accommodate EM/P4 scale wheelsets if the modeller wishes to simply swap out the blackened RP25.110 profile wheelsets that come with the product. Details carry on to the ends of the wagons with sprung buffers and piping connectors included in the detail pack.

Moving on to the later open conversion of the wagons, the twin pack includes six steelpainted coil loads (with additional packs to become available as accessories in the range) where the interior detail can be better appreciated in trainloads.

Accurascale's latest wagon, a model that has not been previously produced, is a welcome addition to the modeller who wishes to include heavy freight flows from the last two decades and there's certainly no shortage of choices of model locomotives they can run behind. An excellent quality model.









The lateral load bars can be positioned according to the load carried by the user. They're a fairly loose fit, so a dab of glue may be sensible.

datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Accurascale **CATALOGUE REFS:**

(ACC2120BSC1) JSA Covered Steel Wagon Twin Pack - British Steel pack 1

(ACC2121BSC2) JSA Covered Steel Wagon

Twin Pack - British Steel pack 2

(ACC2122BSC3) JSA Covered Steel Wagon

Twin Pack - British Steel pack 3

(ACC2126VTG1) JSA Covered Steel Wagon

Twin Pack - VTG pack 1

(ACC2127VTG2) JSA Covered Steel Wagon

Twin Pack - VTG pack 2

(ACC2128VTG3) JSA Covered Steel Wagon

Twin Pack - VTG pack 3

(ACC2132VTGO1) JSA Open Steel Wagon Twin Pack - VTG pack 1

(ACC2133VTGO2) JSA Open Steel Wagon Twin Pack - VTG pack 2

(ACC2134VTGO3) JSA Open Steel Wagon Twin Pack - VTG pack 3

RRP: £59.95 (set of two wagons)

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

Era: 9

Company/Operator: British Steel/VTG

Weight: Hooded 75g, Open 60g per wagon

Body and chassis: Plastic

Minimum Curve Radius: 460mm (R2) Couplings: NEM-mounted tension-locks Accessories: Vacuum pipes and load bars







Accurascale JSA review

Accurascale's latest wagon is a welcomed addition to the range and offers excellent quality, as Andy York discovers.

WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE (You must have a wifi connection to stream video content)



BACHMANN **CLASS 20/3**

Words & photography: Andy York



ith their expanding and diversifying operations after 1998, Direct Rail Services (DRS) had ten Class 20s, later expanding to a fleet of 15, rebuilt by Wabtec between 1998 and 1999. These locomotives were distinguishable from their predecessors by the plated nose and cab ends with reinforced cab windows with Wipac lights fitted, plus increased fuel capacity with tanks in front of the cab and in the nose. Multiple Unit connectors were added to the ends allowing operation with other Class 20/3 locomotives. The fleet of Class 20/3s owned by DRS saw frequent work across Britain in pairs (or with Class 37s) on nuclear flask trains, the company's speciality. DRS supplied Class 20s for use with the Rail Head Treatment Train in winter, too.

It's almost 20 years since Bachmann introduced a Class 20 to its Branchline range, which became its first sound-fitted model in 2005, but, make no mistake, this model isn't just a reworking of that wellregarded model, but a newly-tooled one with a view to delivering the features that modellers of today wish to see in a new product. The old benefits of a beautifullyrunning model that looked the part haven't been lost, though, and the model has performed to the same standards as my old fleet on test.

Starting inside-out, the model has an allnew chassis block, running plate and bogies. The five-pole motor has been laid lower to facilitate more space at the top for the circuitry. The board has a pre-fitted speaker, which sits behind the engine-room grilles, plug and socket connections for all wiring and a PluX22 decoder socket meaning that sound-fitting will be as simple as it can be once the two screws securing the body have

been removed.

Beneath the chassis, the white tanks can be removed for analogue users to configure lighting modes via DIP switches. Operation of the cab light, which is a yellow LED with directional function can be switched as day or night mode with a purer white light.

The new body tooling covers the cabroof radio pods and ventilators, and the distinctive cab and nose ends of a Class 20/3 with the removal of doors and headcode panels to give a clean look with the plated surface. At the base of the cab end and above the bufferbeam at the nose end are the prominent Wipac light boxes with headlights and taillights. Centrally-mounted at both ends are the multiple working connector sockets in their downward-facing mountings and, at a higher level, the forward running light. The grille vent at the top of the cab end doesn't seem to quite match the

appearance of the prototype images that I have seen of 20306. The aforementioned cab lighting really shows up the level of internal detail. To fit a crew, the cab interior can be removed from inside but it requires a little persuasion. The detailing pack includes the usual bufferbeam piping, cosmetic screw-link couplings and snowploughs. The sprung metal buffers are in polished steel, representing how the locomotive was initially delivered.

Body decoration is up to Bachmann's usual high standard and this model, 20306, is in the early style of DRS branding with pale blue panels over the base Oxford Blue colouring. The locomotive retained this livery from its introduction with DRS in

1999 through to its withdrawal in 2013.

For those who prefer the later 'Compass' branded locomotives, Bachmann is releasing 20312 in this livery at the same time. That seems a good enough reason to indulge in two models so that trains can be doubleheaded or 'topped and tailed'.

DRS disposed of some of its fleet and one such example is the model of 20311 in Harry Needle Railroad Company's somewhat bright orange livery - an ideal accompaniment to Bachmann's Underground S Stock for trains between the works at Derby and the TfL network.

I'm delighted to see what's inside this new model as it will, in time, provide an ideal platform for new models of earlier Class 20s.

datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Bachmann Branchline

CATALOGUE REFS:

(35-125) Class 20/3 20306 DRS Blue (35-126) Class 20/3 20311 Harry Needle

Railroad Company

(35-127) Class 20/3 20312 DRS Compass

(Original)

RRP: £164.95 DCC ready

Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76 scale $\cap \cap$

Era: 9

Company/Operator: DRS

Weight: 341g

Body and chassis: Plastic

Minimum Curve Radius: 438mm (R2)

Wheel Profile: RP25

Couplings: NEM-mounted tension-locks



GRAHAM FARISH 'PARROT' WAGON

Words & photography: Andy York



The Graham Farish range now sees the introduction of the WD 40T 'Parrot' Bogie Wagon in N gauge to follow on from its OO gauge sibling.

250 wagons were constructed in 1917 to the standard LNWR 40T 'Parrot' bogie trolley design for the War Department – for use at home and by the French Railways during the First World War. After the war, 25 of these were passed over to the LNWR to join the original 'Parrot' wagons and a further 140 were sold to the Midland Railway, plus some to the Caledonian Railway. The remainder of the wagons were either left in France or retained for use by the British Military. At the time of the Grouping in 1923, all the wagons in railway company ownership became part of the LMS fleet. By the Second World War, the original 40T 'Parrot' wagons were requisitioned by the War Department and the design was modified featuring a fabricated side profile, disk wheels, vacuum braking and harder springing to become one type of 'Warflats'.

Our review model in WD grey livery is suitable for use at home or in France with its 'Etat' markings, which denoted that it was state rather than railway property. The basic model as removed from the box is fitted with standard Rapido couplings, and the detail pack includes brake pipes, loadsecuring chain and hooks, plus the screwjacks as shown at one end of the wagon in the pictures. Fitting these jacks, which were used to stabilize the wagon in loading/ unloading situations, may impede the swing of the bogie when the standard coupling is used dependent on the modeller's curve radii, so some testing may be wise before jumping the gun and gluing them in place.

The decoration, at first glance, may seem minimal but what's there is accurate and well defined with builders' plates on the solebar clearly visible. No tank load option is available, as with the OO gauge model, but I have found 1:148 scale tarpaulincovered MkV tank-shaped loads on eBay at a reasonable price to enable a France-bound train to be portrayed.

Graham Farish has also launched the model in LMS grey for later usage in general traffic with appropriate markings, which includes a detailing pack with bolster and stanchions to be fitted to the wagon bed.

The model is of great interest to a number of people modelling the Great War period, but its usefulness extends well beyond that time.





datafile

BASICS

Manufacturer: Graham Farish **CATALOGUE REFS:**

(373-350) WD 40T 'Parrot' bogie wagon WD Grey

(373-351) WD 40T 'Parrot' bogie wagon

LMS Grey **RRP:** £34.95

Gauge/scale: 9mm gauge, 1:148 scale N

Fra: 2 to 3

Company/Operator: WD/LNWR/MR/LMS

Weight: 15q

Body and chassis: Plastic

Minimum Curve Radius: 263.5mm (R2) Couplings: NEM-mounted Rapido Accessories: Buffer-beam pipe detailing, load chains and jacking assemblies.



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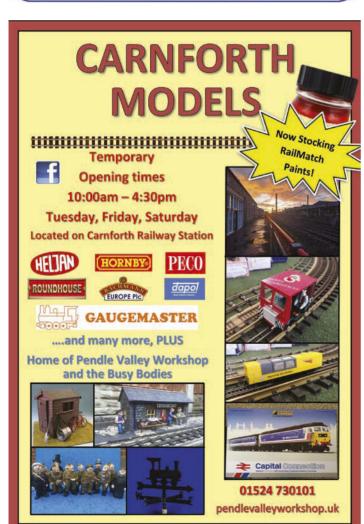
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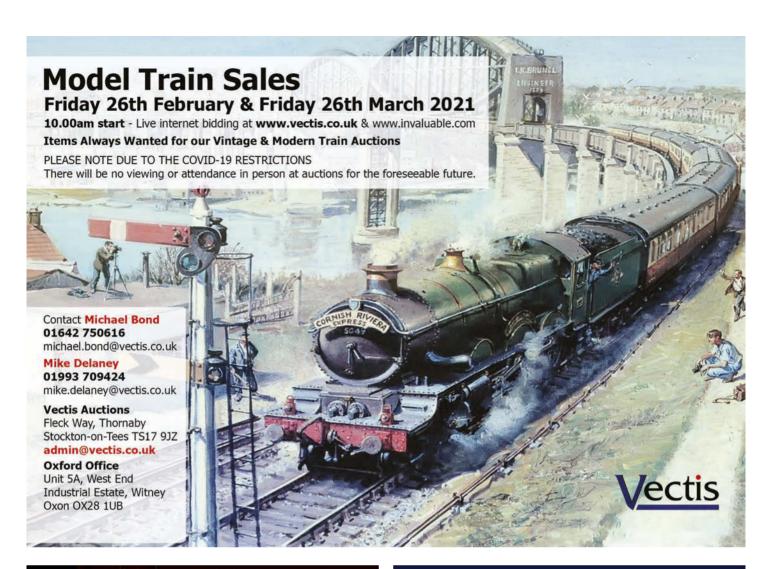
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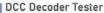
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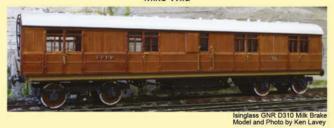
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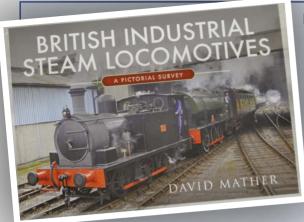
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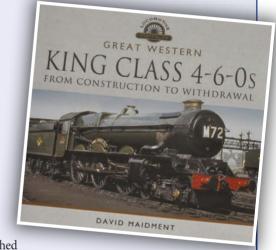
BRITISH INDUSTRIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVES, by David Mather, Pen and Sword. PRICE: £25.00

Among the usual many new titles from Pen and Sword this month, I've chosen a couple to review. The first is a beautifully-illustrated presentation illustrating the relatively small (and not so small) steam locomotives operated by all manner of industries, including coal mines, steel works, breweries, engineering works, power stations, dockyards, mineral lines, gas works, as well as on some systems abroad. Later life preservation is also given due prominence. All the major (and some minor) manufacturers' work is shown in all manner of guises - at (hard) work, some rotting remains in dereliction (a heavy-weatherer's delight!) and, as mentioned, in shining preservation. The variety is incredible; there are some steam cranes illustrated, too, though not all are really 'locomotives'. The reproduction is of a high-quality, all printed on good-quality stock. The captions are extended and accurate. At a time

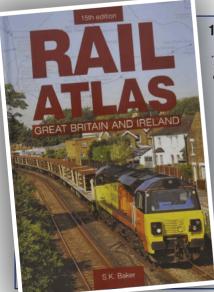
when the RTR manufacturers are looking at producing more non-BR steam locomotives (though many ex-BR locomotives were sold into private industry), this book will be of great use for those who wish to model the 'industrial' scene. It's a handsome addition to any railway enthusiast's library and, as already stated, especially to those who make models. Although, I admit, the industrial scene is not my greatest interest, I found it fascinating; and, at the price, excellent value for money, and thoroughly-recommended.

GREAT WESTERN KING CLASS 4-6-0S FROM CONSTRUCTION TO WITHDRAWAL, by David Maidment, Pen and Sword. PRICE: £35.00

The second offering from Pen and Sword reviewed this month concerns the GWR's mostpowerful express passenger locomotives, the 30 celebrated 'Kings'. The author has written many books for this publisher describing various locomotive classes (there's also one from him on Drummond's passenger and mixed traffic locomotives), following the same format of high-quality landscape presentation in black and white and colour. The reproduction is generally very good, with everything printed on good-quality stock. The whole story of this long-lived class is told in ten chapters, including a fascinating personal insight into some of their running when the author was a young man in the late-'50s/early-'60s (I can claim nothing so instructive, only having seen the 'Kings' at Shrewsbury, late in their lives when they weren't taken off the principal trains at Wolverhampton, and I never travelled behind one in general service). Like other volumes written by the author, it's comprehensive and accurate and will prove of immense help to model-makers in every scale/gauge. Indeed, I'd put it as one of the principal books on the class; a fitting complement to the other established



works. As with many famous steam classes, they were probably at their best towards the ends of their lives, especially when all were fitted with double chimneys and improved superheaters. Their restricted RA meant that they ended their days on the duties for which they were designed, with just a final 'excursion' into South Wales and north of Wolverhampton. All these final stories are well-told, and it's finished with a lugubrious chapter on the class's disposal, though the story of the three in preservation continues. There are also useful logs, tables and drawings included. All in all, a must for lovers of this great class; indeed, for all enthusiasts everywhere. Entirely recommended.

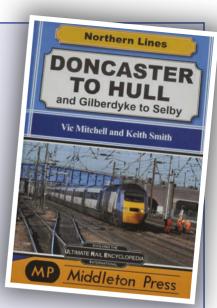


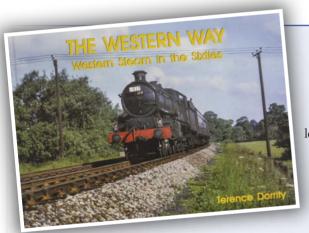
15TH EDITION RAIL ATLAS GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, by S K Baker, Crecy. PRICE: £20.00

This is a fitting, final tribute to the compiler/cartographer of this invaluable work because Stuart Baker died last year. I'm told it's used by professional railwaymen (and women), and I'm not surprised because it's a vital source of reference. It's not just heavy rail lines that are drawn but also underground systems and tramways, as well as freight-only and preserved lines. 'Comprehensive' is an understatement! All the maps are beautifully-clear and unambiguous, with insets/expansions where necessary for the more complex areas (London/Greater London gets 24 pages!). With its 152 pages, including a near 26-page index, it really is the clearest mapping I've seen of our current home railways. Though in comparison with the pre-Grouping atlases I've got, the contraction in lines is enormous, it's very encouraging to see new lines and proposed/reinstated lines included, which makes for an exciting future indeed. And, for those who think that our railway system isn't as vast as wide-ranging as before, HS2 and the likes of the proposed reinstatement of the Waverley route bode well for the railways. This volume is a worthy complement to all the other rail atlases, particularly to those which show the full extent of what Britain's railways used to be like. It should be on all enthusiasts' bookshelves, it's beautifully-done and exceptional value for money.

NORTHERN LINES DONCASTER TO HULL AND GIBERDYKE TO SELBY, by Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith, Middleton Press. PRICE: £18.95

I've mentioned this before, but I find it more and more difficult to say anything original about this vast series when I write my reviews on individual volumes. All follow the tried and trusted format of comprehensively describing the title's routes using good-quality photography, sometimes extended (and accurate) captions, from pre-Grouping times to virtually the present day, with a selection of clear maps, timetables, tables, tickets and ephemera. As usual, it'll be of great use to modellers, especially those whose interest is in earlier times, where complex track formations and mechanical signalling installations are present. Indeed, some of that signalling illustrated lasted until 2018, so it's of interest to those who model Class 66s and modern DMUs as well. I mention 'accurate' captions, but I feel more could have been made of some. For instance, in Fig.117 we're shown an A1 at Selby 'some time in the 1950s'. That's not wrong, but by observing the position of the locomotive's front numberplate and the emblem on the tender, it could be narrowed down to 1956/'57. In Fig.93, we're shown a D11 leaving Hull Paragon for Doncaster and we're told that 'The white windows (in the carriages) are to hide toilet compartments'. That's true, but why not mention that those white windows are in a Tourist arctic twin TO/TO? One thing I find odd is that, although the various locations are numbered on the contents' page, those numbers don't appear on the pages themselves.





THE WESTERN WAY WESTERN STEAM IN THE SIXTIES. by Terence Dorrity. Irwell Press. PRICE: £25.95

I found this delightful pictorial book a splendid antidote to Christmas television. In its full-colour 128 pages, there are wonderful scenes showing a vast variety of ex-GWR motive power on all manner of duties including express passenger work, local passenger jobs, goods trains, on shed and in works and on enthusiasts' specials and excursions. All the pictures are printed to a high standard on good-quality stock, as is Irwell's usual way. The geographical spread is quite wide, though (as far as I can see) there is nothing at the WR's western and northern 'extremes'. The author was brought up in the Stratford-upon-Avon area so most of the scenes are around there, but are still very interesting nonetheless. Strangely, no pictures of 'Kings' are seen on normal duties on the Birmingham road, but there are plenty of

'Castles' to compensate for that. For modellers, it's invaluable, especially for those who contemplate weathering their creations; on occasions 'heroically'! There's an interesting section on photography, where the author describes the cameras he used to capture these evocative images. He certainly showed considerable expertise in his picture-taking, as the results in this volume show. I'm sure it'll find a home in most enthusiasts' libraries (deservedly so), but just one (minor) criticism. Why do so many authors today not know that none of the seasons is a proper noun and, thus, should not be prefixed by a capital letter? Thoroughly recommended.

FESTINIOG SCENES THROUGH THE SIXTIES, by Stephen Evans, the Festiniog Railway Heritage Group. PRICE: £15.00

Another volume showing scenes from the decade of 50/60 years ago, but very different in what it depicts. In fact, I don't think I've ever seen such a wide range of photographs illustrating one of the pioneering preservation movements. Acting as a volunteer, the author was given access to all sorts of activities, giving him numerous photographic opportunities that he exploited to the full. Considering his relative youth, he mastered photography very quickly, with the wonderful results displayed in full, mainly in black and white, but with some colour. It's an evocative period, well captured, but now disappearing into history (as was BR steam contemporaneously). Speaking of BR steam, how nice to see some shots of Bill Hoole, late of driving A4s at high speed on the ECML? I wonder, was he more careful on the narrow gauge? For modellers, it'll prove to be invaluable, whatever the chosen period. Though narrow gauge is not my main interest, I did visit the line during the period depicted and many memories were revived (though I'm far too indolent to have been a volunteer). All in all a joy to browse through and incredible value for money.



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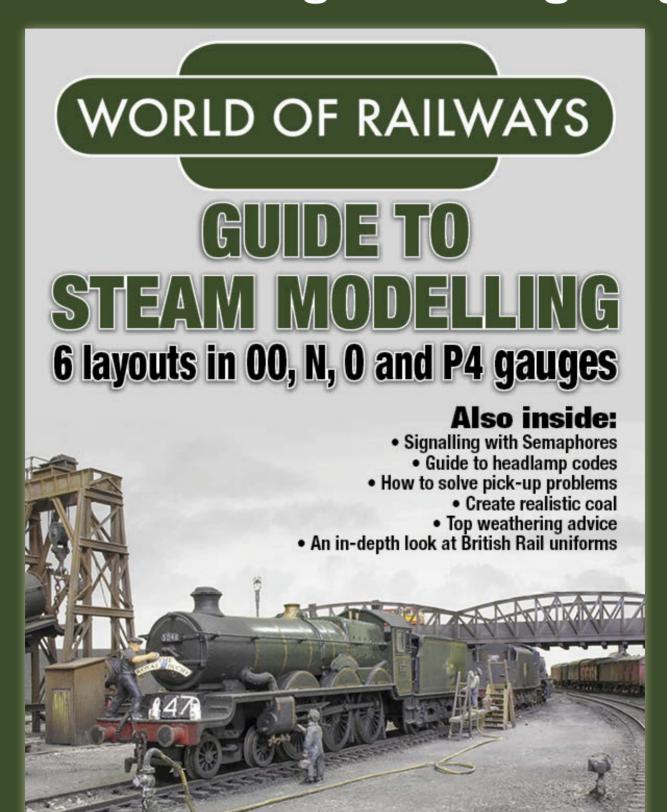
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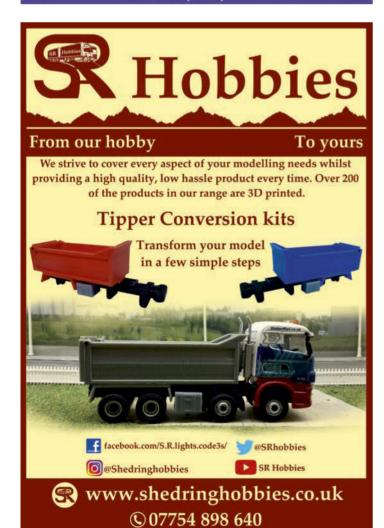




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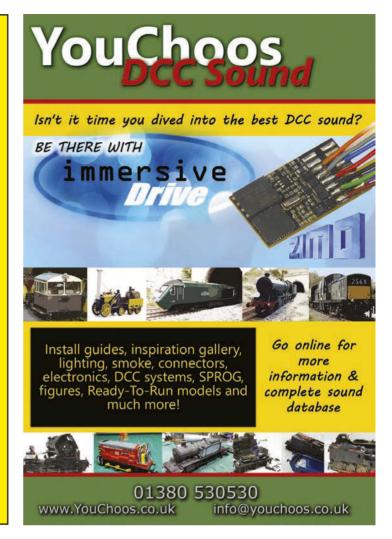
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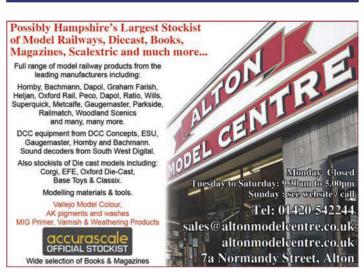
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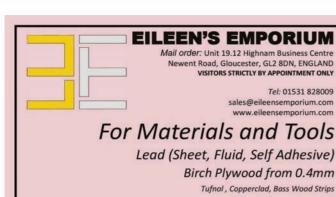


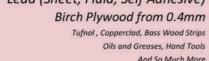












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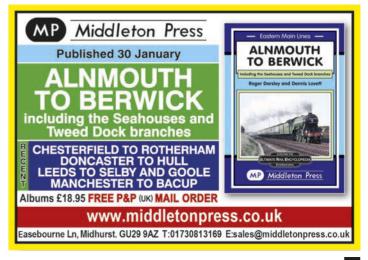
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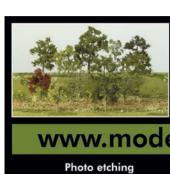




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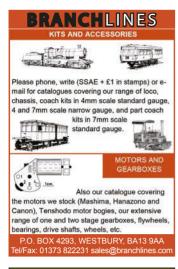
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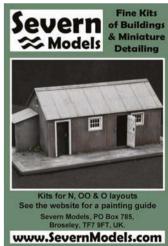
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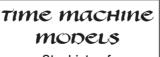
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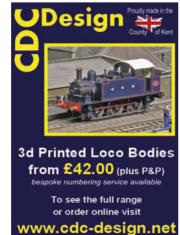
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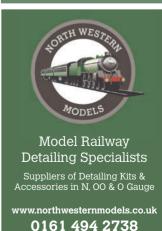
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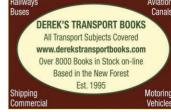
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Sorry, what date is it?

Buffer

hanks to our four-weekly production schedule, you are reading the March 2021 issue of BRM, but according to the calendar, February hasn't rolled in yet. While delivering 13 issues a year is a good thing, as some commentators on our forum, RMweb, have mentioned, this date does seem a little odd. All we can say is, try being in the middle of it!

To make things more entertaining for us, our sister railway titles are monthly, so it's possible to be working on January and March issues at the same time. In addition, we are planning and gathering material for issues and video content well into the summer.

All this is very confusing, but never fear, whatever the issue of BRM, we still strive to bring you plenty of great modelling. And don't worry, next

month is our spring issue, so our cover dates will return to normal.

Now the big question
– can you eat chocolate
eggs once they have
been in a coal wagon?
Yes you can, but they're
just a little gritty.



What caught your eye in the Hornby 2021 announcements?

Andy: The new generic pre-grouping style coaches open up a new world, not just for those modelling early periods, but for the opportunities to adapt and re-livery.

Debbie: Playtrains. It looks great fun, and I have a small person who is just the right age to test it properly for BRM.

Howard: With the imminent arrival of *Prince of Wales* on mainline metals, publicity surrounding the locomotive is sure to be high. What better a way to celebrate this latest achievement by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust than a new OO gauge P2 to the latest standards?

Phil: I'm disappointed the Battlespace Turbo car hasn't been re-introduced, but I'll take solace in the Ruston 88DS.

Ruth: As a designer, I'm loving all the retro livery wagons. They look terrific.

This month in pictures...



Andy grabbed a Zoom chat with "Mr Hornby" Simon Kohler about 2020. You can watch the video on World of Railways.



Cake Box is back! After numerous requests, the competition is back for three months at the start of 2021. See RMweb for details.



Inspired by seeing Hornby's running sample, Phil has tracked down a few more items for his APT memorabilia collection.



Someone on the team insists that all layouts need a VW. At least they are easier to work on than the real thing!







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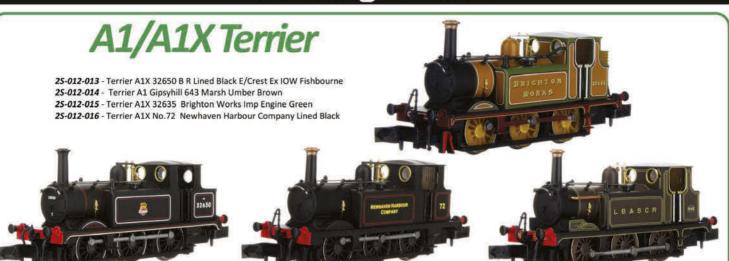
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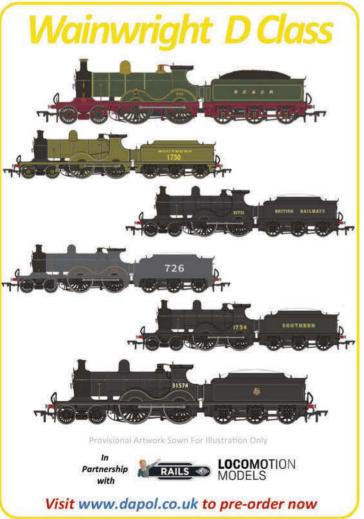
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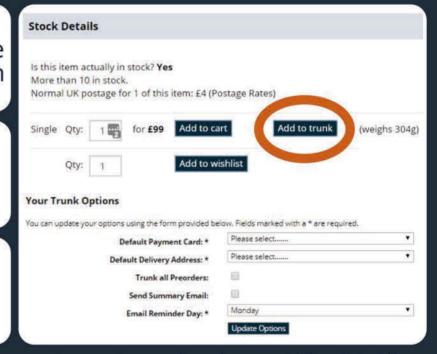
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This definitely sounds like a service I will be using, especially with the present COVID-19 situation.
 Brian, UK



As an Australian buyer, I like this idea as many times I have bought pre-owned items - then placed a separate order for new items the following day. Terrific service!

- Greg, Aus

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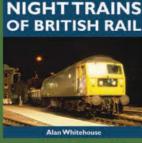
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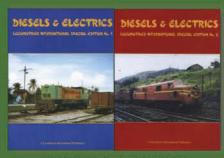
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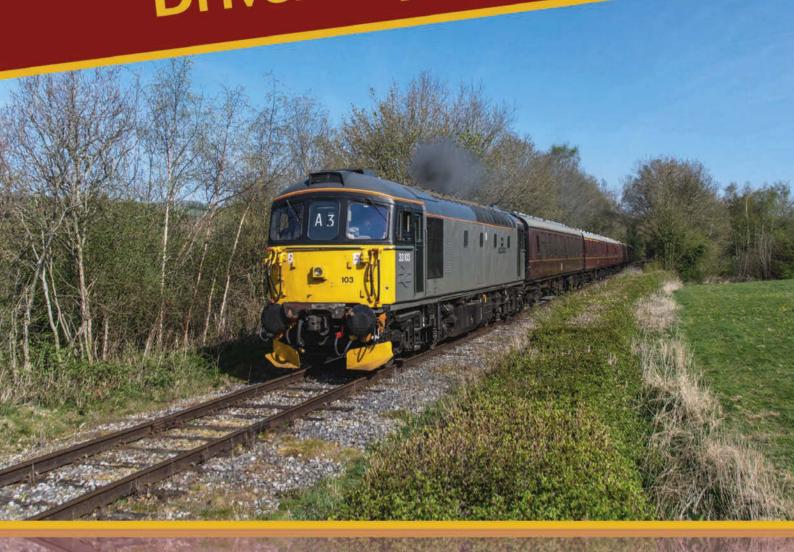


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Letters





ven today one of the best locations to watch freight trains has to be Barnetby in north Lincolnshire. In 1989 and 1990 Michael Vanns paid several visits to photograph trains against the backdrop of the wide variety of semaphore signals that then controlled operations.

In the last issue of TRACTION the editor described the night he spent on Stafford station in July 1975 and referred to Crewe being an equally interesting location to pass the hours of darkness. Earlier in the same year David Clough paid several visits to record night-time operations on film at this major junction. I don't envy him on those cold January and February nights though!

David Hayes continues his study of the Midland Main Line using the photographs of Kevin Lane. In this issue he concentrates on the Luton area in the days before electrification.

Like many enthusiasts in the 1970s and 1980s Nick Edmunds was something of a loco haulage fan and spent much of his free time travelling behind 'Westerns' and 'Peaks' in the West Country. However he was also drawn to sample the many local trains that were powered by the smaller diesels such as Class 25 and 31. In his article about these local workings in Devon he relates his experiences.

Colin Boocock has written several articles about German locomotive types for TRACTION but it was on a visit to Dresden, in the former East Germany, in 2019 that he had several chance encounters with those same locomotive types now in their declining years.

History, as we know, begins yesterday and it doesn't feel that long ago that EWS were running most of Britain's freight services. David Ratcliffe recorded the variety of intermodal trains that EWS operated in the early years of the 21st century.

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BACK ISSUES

Tel: 01778 391180 E: subsaccexecteam@warnersgroup.co.uk West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH Gavin Morrison continues his series of feature about the Manchester to Leeds Trans Pennine route concentrating this time on the section east of Standedge Tunnel between Marsden and Huddersfield.

In TRACTION MODELLING we feature a superb N Gauge layout by Peter Latham called Wormhill which is based closely on the actual location of Peak Forest in the Peak District of Derbyshire. Heavy stone traffic is the main focus of this layout with close attention to the details found at this freight 'Hot Spot'.

nd now some special news to look forward to. The next issue, TRACTION 261, will be a bumper special edition with the theme of 'Rail Blue'. It will be larger than our normal issues and will cover just those years when Rail Blue dominated the railway scene. So whether it is the early years of plain all over blue or the later 'Large Logo' livery this is an issue not to be missed.





CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRACTION

TRACTION welcomes contributions from railway staff and enthusiasts about diesel and electric traction and railway operation. If possible articles should be sent in digital format either by email or on CD or memory stick. Photographs and slides should be scanned and also submitted in the same way. Please contact the Editor for further details and advice about scanning methods when submitting photographs.

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90021 is near Manchester Oxford Road station with the 12:40 Trafford Park to Wembley. DAVID RATCLIFFE



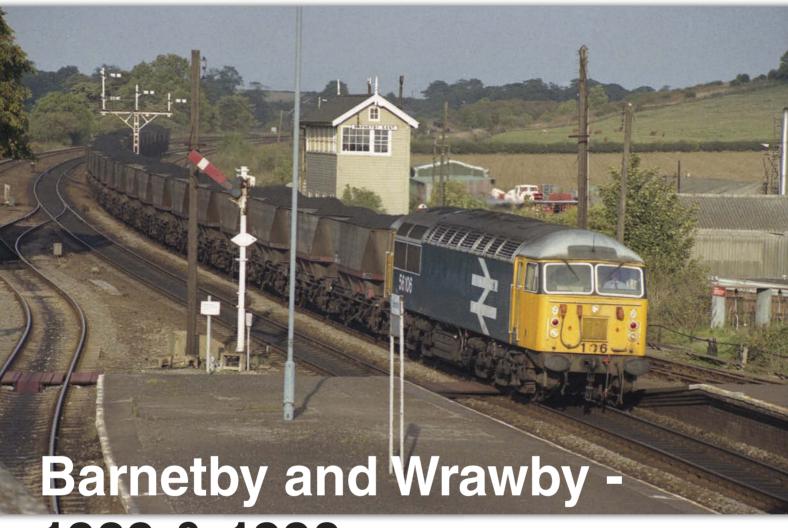


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E-mail: steverabone@hotmail.com Editorial postal address: 120 Churchill Road, Middlesbrough TS6 9NS At 16:57 on Saturday 23rd September 1989, 56106 swings passed Barnetby East signal box with 7G40, a train of imported coal. After British Rail had been split into Sectors in 1982, the Railfreight Sector was further subdivided, and the movement of coal by rail became the sole responsibility of Trainload Coal. Whereas during the 1980s the other freight subsectors soldiered on with first generation diesels, Trainload Coal was able to take advantage of newer Class 56 and Class 58 locomotives. When this photograph was taken, 56106 was a little over seven years old, having entered traffic in 1982. It was running on the down fast line, the adjacent down slow line along with the up slow line between Barnetby East and Brocklesby Junction having been out of use for almost two years. Between 1915 and 1972, these additional lines had been worked under permissive block regulations, originally because of the amount of goods traffic travelling to and from Immingham and Grimsby docks and to and from Scunthorpe's steel works. But by the 1970s it had to be acknowledged that the number of trains using the lines no longer warranted the use of permissive block, so from February 1972 they were operated as slow lines under absolute block regulations.



1989 & 1990

Michael A. Vanns looks at the Lincolnshire railway station of Barnetby, its traffic and signalling.

ince the first line opened at the end of the 1840s, the railways of North Lincolnshire have played a vital role in the development of two major British ports and the growth of the country's coal, steel and oil industries. Promoted by a number of companies that amalgamated in 1846 to become the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway, the original impetus was to give the port of Grimsby a viable overland link to the growing industries in the Midlands, Yorkshire and Lancashire. After that connection had been established, the port's importance grew steadily for both exports and imports and its fishing industry also prospered because of the ability of the railways to transport fish quickly and in bulk to destinations all over the country.

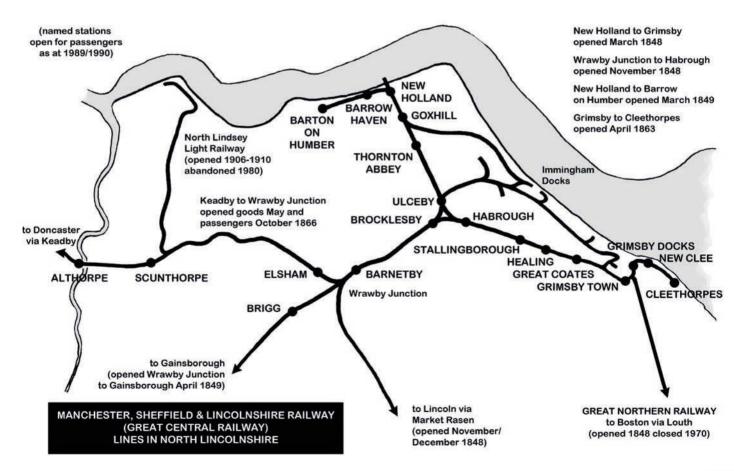
With the completion of a direct railway route to Doncaster via Wrawby Junction and Keadby in the 1860s, South Yorkshire coal was added to the list of major exports through the port and this soon became the most important material handled there. New docks were opened but by the end of the nineteenth century the facilities at Grimsby were no longer able to cope as the South Yorkshire field produced an increasing tonnage of coal for export. Consequently, the bold decision was taken to create a completely new port a few miles up the coast near the village of Immingham. The Act of Parliament for this was secured in 1904 and the site was officially opened in July 1912. The new docks covered 1,000 acres (405 hectares) with a river frontage 1.5miles (2.4km)

in length. There were 170 miles (274km) of track and sidings capable of dealing with almost 17,000 wagons, (roughly the equivalent of 6,000 modern 40ft (12m) long containers).

As Immingham was nearing completion, the railway company turned its attention to upgrading the section of line between Wrawby Junction and Brocklesby to increase line capacity. By 1912 there were already additional lines between Wrawby Junction and Barnetby station, but the rest of the route from there to Brocklesby was double track. In 1912 work started on laying new up and down goods lines on this section as well as extra through lines and sidings between Barnetby and Wrawby Junction. Barnetby station was completely rebuilt and the level crossing on Victoria



Early morning autumn sunshine at Barnetby station on Saturday 23rd September 1989. 31469 heads away from the camera at 09:40 having been signalled forward by the raising of Barnetby East signal box's down fast starter no.49. In the background 31188 approaches from Wrawby Junction with a train of steel slabs from British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe works and is given a clear road by the raising of Barnetby East's up fast first home no.19,. At the time this photograph was taken, 31469 was still in BR overall blue livery and according to Platform 5's Motive Power Pocket Book for summer/autumn 1987, it had previously been numbered 31277. Too far away for the photographer to be able to note its number, a Class 20 rested in the down yard opposite Wrawby Junction signal box.



Road replaced by a bridge to take the highway under the new lines. A new bridge over the lines replaced the level crossing at Brocklesby station although the original buildings there were retained. New signal boxes were brought into use there, at Melton Ross, Barnetby East, Barnetby West and Wrawby Junction, the latter with a frame of 132 levers (later extended by the addition of five levers). The whole scheme was completed in 1915.

It had not just been the extra traffic generated from the Immingham project that had necessitated this widening scheme. Also putting more demands on the handling capacity of the railway was the iron and steel industry a little further west at Scunthorpe. By the beginning of the twentieth century the area around the villages of Frodingham, Crosby and Scunthorpe, had become one of the country's major iron and steel producing centres with Scunthorpe transformed into a large, industrial town. The opportunity to smelt local iron ore if sufficient quantities of coal and limestone could be brought into the area had been one of the main reasons for extending the Doncaster to Keadby railway line over the River Trent to Wrawby Junction in the 1860s. Initially the focus had been on the production of pig iron from local iron ore and then, at the end of the century, attention had turned to steel making and it was this material that eventually became the main output of the various firms.

That was a very brief outline of how and why the railways developed in North Lincolnshire and, as the accompanying



HST 43064 'City of York' is carefully negotiating Wrawby Junction on Sunday 22nd January 1989 with the 12:51 Cleethorpes to London King's Cross service via Newark, due into the capital at 16:23. The return working left London at 18:30 and was timetabled back into Cleethorpes at 21:49. This provision of just one through return working on a Sunday repeated that of the rest of the week, a pattern that had been established before the HSTs took over these services in the spring of 1983. British Rail, however, remained ambivalent about this through London-Lincolnshire connection and it was finally discontinued in May 1993.

Over those ten years, the pattern of weekday HST departures from Cleethorpes fluctuated between 05:52 and 06:20, with journeys taking between 2hrs 54mins and 3hrs 7mins. Probably of more significance to passengers, particularly those joining at Lincoln, were the arrival times in the capital that ranged from 08:46 to 09:16. The departure times of the return service from London King's Cross in the same period ranged from 17:13 to 18:18 with most journeys taking 3hrs 15mins back to Cleethorpes, although there was an impressive 2hrs 54min advertised in the summer 1991 timetables. Saturday services followed the same pattern of morning departures from Lincolnshire and late afternoon returns from London, but apart from one anomaly in the May 1985 to May 1986 timetable, all Sunday services were timed to leave Cleethorpes in the early afternoon. Some returns from King's Cross on Sundays between 1983 and 1993, could depart as early as 18:04 or as late as 20:05. The last timetable, before all through services were withdrawn in May 1993, showed (if it was not a misprint in the tables) a record run from Cleethorpes to King's Cross on Saturdays of just 2hrs 49mins, and an equally depressing Sunday journey in the same direction occupying 4hrs 8mins!



Congestion at Wrawby Junction on Wednesday 19th April 1989. 37255 and 37377 on 6T25 (an Immingham to Scunthorpe iron ore working) had been brought to a stand on the down fast line (the correct terminology at this location) at 11:45 waiting for a 'line clear' to Elsham (the next signal box from Wrawby Junction on the Doncaster line). Following this train a few minutes later, and diverted at Barnetby East onto the down goods line, 47319 'Norsk Hydro' had pulled up alongside with 6S32, an Immingham to Leith working. Running late, the 11:10 Cleethorpes to Birmingham 'Sprinter' service was then obliged to squeeze between the two freights on the down slow line and is seen here being signalled onto the Lincoln line by the raising of the semaphore worked by lever no.112 in Wrawby Junction signal box. Watching from the down yard was the 'Barnetby pilot', 20009 soon to be left in peace again once 6T25 and 6S32 had departed just after midday.

31154 and 31319 are heading towards Wrawby Junction, visible in the background, at 10:03 on Saturday 23rd September 1989 with 6Z57 from the Immingham refineries to the oil terminal at Kingsbury. By this date, there were 12 oil refineries operating in Britain, three alongside the docks at Immingham; Total's Lindsey Refinery, Petrofina's Lindsey Refinery and Conoco's Humber Refinery. If this train had been photographed two decades earlier, it would have been entering the section controlled from Barnetby West signal box that was situated almost half way between Barnetby East and Wrawby Junction signal boxes. The West box controlled the exits from the up reception and the up goods lines from Wrawby Junction; those lines had been taken out of use when the West box closed in June 1969.



photographs were taken in 1989 and 1990 at Barnetby and Wrawby Junction, only the evolution of the freight traffic depicted in those images will be examined next. There is, unfortunately, no room to look at the period between the end of the First World War and the 1980s. By then, of course, passenger and freight was no longer steam hauled and the transporting of fish by rail was a distant memory but significant quantities of minerals and semi-finished steel products continued to flow along the railways in this area.

In 1967 the British Steel Corporation had been created and the works at Scunthorpe underwent a major modernisation programme dubbed 'The Anchor Project'. In 1970 a new works was opened and vital for its success was the completion of a new terminal at Immingham for the reception of imported iron ore. At the start of 1968, Parliamentary approval had been granted for the building of a new coal export handling facility there and work

had started on this multi-million pound project that summer. The British Steel Corporation then joined this National Coal Board and British Transport Docks Board project so that the terminal could also deal with imported iron ore. British Rail Engineering was tasked with building the new 100 ton iron ore tippler wagons that would be made up into fixed rakes of twenty-one wagons running between the terminal and the steelworks as a service of thirteen 'Merry-go-round' trains a day. The motive power would be a pair of Class 37s. The new service started operating in 1973 and, a few years later, similar trains were run from the terminal to British Steel Corporation's plant at Llanwern in South Wales

By then Immingham was also handling imported oil coming in through a new terminal opened in 1969 to supply two new refineries. Continental Oil (UK) Ltd's refinery at South Killingholme sent its products by rail to

Kingsbury (Warwickshire) and Langley (Buckinghamshire), and from the autumn of 1972, Total's Lindsey Refinery close by sent its products by rail to its new Colwick site, Nottingham. Much of the oil was transported in new 100 ton bogie tank wagons each designed to carry up to 21,000 gallons and approaching a thousand were in use all over the British Rail network by the end of the 1960s.

These flows of coal, iron ore and oil through Barnetby continued into the 1970s, but in a very different and difficult economic environment. A recession followed the 'Oil Crisis' of 1973, inflation soared, trade relations deteriorated, strikes became more common and unemployment rose steadily. When the Conservative Party came to power in 1979, the stage was set for painful battles between government, trade unions and the nationalised industries. In 1982 British Rail was split into what were in effect ten separate businesses of which the three

most relevant to this article were Intercity. Provincial and Railfreight, Two years later. the Government turned its attention to the National Coal Board, precipitating a long and divisive strike that, in the years following its conclusion in 1985, witnessed the closure of hundreds of collieries and an increasing tonnage of coal imported through the 1970 terminal at Immingham to British power stations. Between 1978 and 1982, the historic British steel making sites at Shotton, Consett, Corby and Clydeside all closed and investment was then concentrated on Scunthorpe. with two multi-million pound projects to rebuild the two blast furnaces completed there in 1985 ('Queen Mary') and 1988/89 ('Queen Victoria'). In 1988 the British Steel Corporation was privatised to become British Steel plc.

The previous year, the National Coal Board had been abolished and the British Coal Corporation created, a half-way house to full privatisation. The expectation then was that British Rail would be privatised but, very soon, the country entered another period of recession and the plans were delayed. The various sectors of British Rail, still finding their feet, were then put under greater pressure to make the most of what limited funds

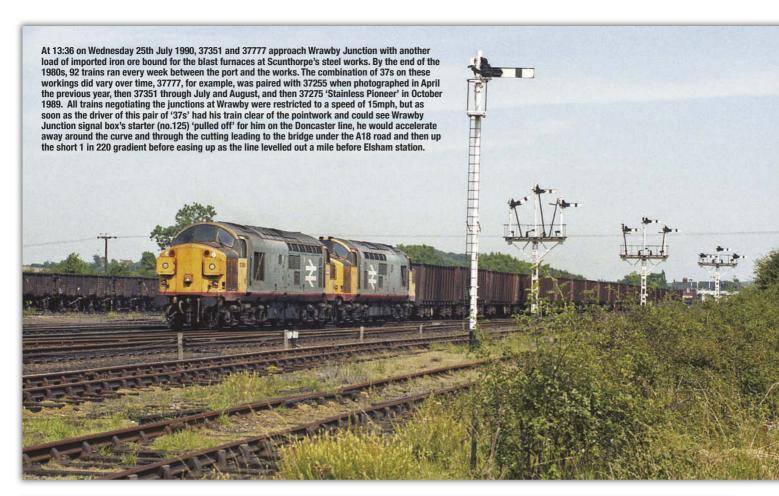


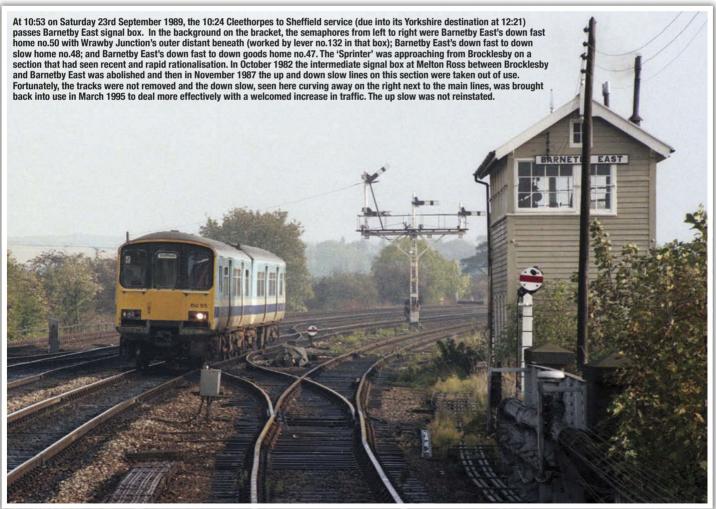
At the time this photograph was taken, pairs of Class 37s had been in constant operation on Immingham to Scunthorpe iron ore trains since 1973 and single and pairs of Class 31s had also become the main motive power for oil trains in the same period. After more than 25 years in active service, both the metals and petroleum sub-sectors of British Rail were increasingly keen to replace these locomotives with newer, more powerful units to both eliminate double heading and also increase the tonnage in every train.

In August 1987, tenders had been invited from both British and international firms for the design and manufacture of a new class of locomotive and, having won the contract, Brush at Loughborough started work building the pioneer Class 60 at the very end of 1988. The first one of this new class this photographer saw on test at the end of March 1990 at Wrawby Junction was 60007 'Robert Adam' in Trainload Petroleum livery. By that summer, 60003 'Christopher Wren', also in the same livery, was being put through its paces and is seen here leaving the down yard at Wrawby Junction at 13:43 on Wednesday 25th July 1990 with a test train made up of HEA coal wagons. Compared with Class 37s and 31s in harness, the silence of this new machine as it pulled away was uncanny!



When this photograph was taken next to the Gainsborough line at Wrawby Junction on Wednesday 21st March 1990 British Rail was seeking Government permission to shut the line along with the passenger stations at Brigg, Kirton Lindsey and Gainsborough Central. The route had already been reduced to single track in various places and as a result of this and the uncertainty over its future, the passenger service was meagre and operated with life-expired DMUs. Here, a Class 114, photographed at 15:00, works the 14:29 Cleethorpes to Sheffield (arrive 16:40) service. It was one of only three trains daily each way during the week, there being no passenger service on Sundays. British Rail had been grappling for years on how best to run the passenger service over the route. In 1980 there had been a similar weekday service to that in 1990 plus one train each way on summer Sundays. Some of the latter, however, were advertised as only stopping at Brigg or Kirton Lindsey to 'set down' passengers. Ten years earlier the situation was even odder with the timetable showing a service of one return DMU during the week supplemented by three buses run between Gainsborough and Barnetby and four in the opposite direction. On Sundays there was only a bus service of three each way, Kirton Lindsey not being served and Brigg only between May and September! The route was saved from closure in 1990 but from October 1993 passenger trains were only run on Saturdays.







37004, smartly attired in its new Trainload Metals livery, is passing Wrawby Junction signal box at 13:02 on Wednesday 25th July 1990. At this date the signal box could boast just 70 working levers in a frame of 137. Twenty years earlier there had been only one 'spare' lever, all the others working points, point locks, signals, detonator placers, or ground frame releases.

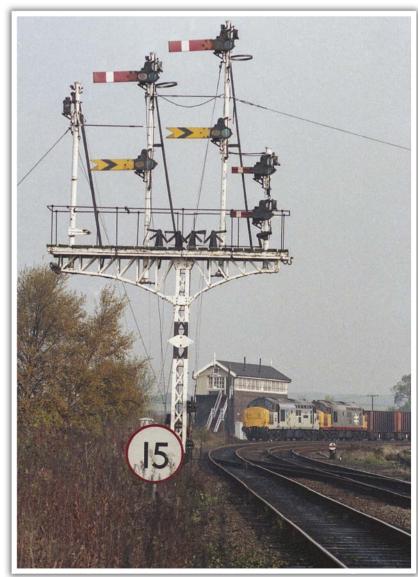
Perversely, although the signalmen at the time this photograph was taken had less pulling and pushing of levers to do, he still had to regularly walk the full length of the frame to work levers A and B, respectively the distant and home off the Doncaster line, and all but 3 levers between nos.108 and 132 that controlled the exit out of the down sidings, and entry to the Lincoln, the Gainsborough and the Doncaster lines from the down goods, down slow and down fast lines. It was perhaps fortunate there was little traffic going to Gainsborough that might have necessitated the use of lever no.132 that operated the down fast outer distant signal, and no.124 that operated the down fast inner distant, both of which were wire-worked upper quadrant semaphores some distance from the box. In all the many days spent at Barnetby, this photographer never witnessed either distant being cleared ('pulled off') for a Gainsborough train.

the Government was prepared to give them. When these photographs were taken at Barnetby and Wrawby in 1989 and 1990, Intercity made only two daily incursions through the area with passenger trains between London King's Cross and Cleethorpes and local passenger services were run by British Rail's Provincial Sector, mostly with relatively new 'Sprinters' but with first generation DMUs operating services over the Wrawby Junction to Gainsborough (Central) route. The main activity was the movement of iron ore, coal and semi-finished steel products handled by the various subdivisions of the Railfreight Sector. What these images show is a busy railway location but in the uncertain times before the privatisation of British Rail and British Coal was eventually achieved in 1994.

Acknowledgements

The author and photographer wishes to acknowledge the input of Peter Muxlow, one time signalman at Barnetby East, who provided from the appropriate signal box registers all the reporting numbers of the freight trains that appear in these photographs.

Five minutes past midday on Monday 23rd October 1989 at Wrawby Junction. In the foreground is the LNER bracket supporting the semaphores that controlled the movement of trains approaching the junction on the Lincoln line. The left hand post once supported the up Lincoln to up goods line signal no.19. Then from left to right the upper quadrant semaphores are: no.18 up Lincoln to up slow with Barnetby East's distant beneath (until 1969 this was Barnetby West's distant); no.17 up Lincoln to up fast with Barnetby East's distant beneath (until 1969 this was Barnetby West's distant); and no.16 and no.15 up Lincoln to down sidings. The same arrangement of semaphores also controlled trains coming off both the Brigg line and the Doncaster line, but both these sets of signals had been replaced by colour-lights signals by the time this photograph was taken. In the background, 37275 'Stainless Pioneer' and 37377, hauling a loaded iron ore train, were about to turn off the down fast line and run onto the Doncaster line on their way to Scunthorpe steel works.





37275 and 37381 have the road to run from the down fast to the Doncaster line at Wrawby Junction at 08:45 on the morning of Friday 17th August 1990. In the signal box lever no.130 had been pulled over to raise the appropriate semaphore on the bracket the train was approaching. The arm on the tallest post, worked by lever no.123, was for trains going forward onto the Gainsborough line, and although little used, was still considered the 'main' route as the semaphore was mounted on the tallest post. Next to it was the signal, worked by lever no.113, for trains turning onto the Lincoln line. The same arrangement and hierarchy of arms can be seen on the bracket in front of the leading locomotive, those signals controlling the exit from the down slow line, and on the bracket in the foreground, those semaphores controlling the exit from the down goods line.

From the time the route was opened by the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway at the end of the 1840s, the line through Gainsborough and Barnetby to New Holland was considered to be an extension of its main line from Lancashire, through the Woodhead Tunnel and into Yorkshire. Despite the growing importance from the 1860s onwards of the line from Doncaster through Scunthorpe to Wrawby Junction, the hierarchy of lines remained unchanged, right through to the resignalling and closure of Wrawby Junction signal box at the very end of 2015.



Monday 23rd October 1989, and an atmospheric start to a day's photographing at Barnetby and Wrawby Junction. At 10:30 47373 appeared out of the mist and, having passed Barnetby East signal box's up fast first home signal (in the middle of this photograph), the driver then spotted the up fast second home no.20 clear and opened up the throttle accelerating away through the station towards Brocklesby. To the left is Barnetby East's down fast starter no.49, with Wrawby Junction signal box's down fast inner distant (no.124) beneath, only pulled from caution to all clear if the road was set and all stop signals 'pulled off' for the Gainsborough route.



David Clough reviews the overnight activity at this important location, drawing on two overnight stints during January 1975.

rewe became a place on a railway in 1837 but a decade later it was a railway town. This was because its location was fortuitously at a point where other lines came in to provide links to all points of the compass. Crewe's distance from London – 158 miles – made it an opportune place for locomotive changing and an ideal site for the locomotive workshops of the London & North Western Railway.

The station saw two expansions, the first in 1867 creating the footprint and buildings extant today. In 1902, an island platform with two bays at either end was added on the west side, though only the innermost face of the island platform remains in use. At the same time that these six platforms were added, independent lines were constructed in a cutting to the west to enable freights to bypass the station entirely.

In 1985, the station was remodelled in line with prevailing and anticipated needs. Up to that date, platform numbering started at the west side with the 1902 island and used letter suffixes for the bays. From remodelling, the number order was reversed and bay platforms were given their own numbers. Coincidentally, platform 5 retained the same number.

Whereas the former platforms 1 and 2 had been the main ones for Down services,

this changed in 1985 to the renumbered platforms 6 and 11 (previously 4 and 3), with the new platform 12 (formerly 2) seeing only limited use.

The railway in 1975 was a far cry to that appertaining today. May 1974 had seen the inauguration of the 'Electric Scots', the through running of electric services between Euston and Glasgow Central. This had seen elimination of traction changing in the station for trains from not only London but also Birmingham and beyond, which were heading for North West England and north of the Border. Only through workings to the North Wales coast and Holyhead still exchanged electric for diesel.

The purpose of the 1975 visits was to photograph, not record as such, the overnight activity and this feature draws on this material in conjunction with the prevailing working timetable (WTT) to describe the happenings at Crewe during the hours not normally observed by the public. One major advantage was the absence of interest by Authority in where some images were taken – tripod-mounted to boot – because these would not have been permitted during the day.

This review starts after the last daytime (not daylight) service had passed and ends just before daytime activity recommenced. It is startling to realise how virtually all

the comings and goings back then have gone. Today, there remains a sleeper service to Inverness, though only a part train, which is combined with through carriages to Aberdeen and Fort William as far as Edinburgh Waverley. A separate service conveys portions for Edinburgh and Glasgow, with the latter going forward from Waverley. Links for the night time ferries at Holyhead continue to be provided but, otherwise, all the activity tabulated here has ceased.

The reason for this is twofold. Royal Mail's decision to end the transport of its traffic by rail from 2004 cut activity at a stroke and this was the case to a lesser extent with the ending of newspaper conveyance around 1987. Secondly, railborne parcels business withered on the vine when faced with faster and cheaper 'white van' competition. The railways had yet to be affected by these factors in 1975.

1975 was during an intermediate phase for Anglo-Scottish passenger traffic. Prior to 1966 and the introduction of electric working between Euston and Crewe, the majority of through services between London and Glasgow operated overnight because of the length of the journey. Inauguration of the 'Electric Scots' in 1974 had speeded up the end-to-end time to around 51/4 hours and this brought a reduction in the number of overnight

runs. The 'Night Caledonian' continued to convey only sleeping cars and did not call at Crewe. Both Liverpool and Manchester retained sleeper services, whilst a sleeping car was conveyed on the Euston to Barrowin-Furness train as far as Preston.

Tracking the movements, the Up and Down West Coast TPOs (Travelling Post Office) were considered to be the most important trains. Staff onboard sorted post en route and mailbags were picked up and dropped off at locations such as Crewe, though these no longer used lineside apparatus to exchange mailbags whilst the train was in motion. By virtue of its location, Crewe was a key transhipment point. Feeder services arrived from Peterborough, Cardiff, Mid and North Wales bringing mailbags for 1S09, the Down TPO. The process was reversed after 1M44 the Up TPO had called.

Except for the TPOs, the Class 1 mail trains invariably included a passenger coach in the formation.

Independent of this activity were parcel trains to and from locations that seem illogical today. Back then, however, Bolton, for example, had a large National Carriers depot in the former goods shed and was a sensible place to commence a train that would collect and drop off parcels during its journey. The meandering route of a train between London Liverpool Street and Liverpool Lime Street offers another example. Manchester Mayfield had been built in 1910 on the south side of Piccadilly station to provide extra capacity. It became purely a parcels depot in 1960, when the

railway to Crewe was electrified and continued to be used until 1986. At least one of the services tabulated terminated there but frequently the WTT only gave the location as Manchester.

There was only one passenger service that divided at Crewe, 1A03 00:55 Holyhead to Euston. This shed coaches to form 1G00, the 03:50 to Birmingham New Street and this conveyed mails.

Whereas trains conveying mails were invariably timed for 90mph or above and designated Class 1, note that parcels workings were either Class 3 or 4 and limited to 75mph. This was because some parcels rolling stock was old and, indeed, some were six- or even four-wheeled vehicles. Class 3 trains could only be composed of bogie vans, whilst the only restriction for those of Class 4 was that nothing shorter than 18 feet could be conveyed, irrespective of the number of wheels.

Very few freights came through the station, the purpose being purely for remanning. 4M68 to Trafford Park was timed in the station so that 4M70, the Stratford to Garston liner, could overtake. The latter changed crews in Crewe Basford Hall yard and both were then pathed north along the West Coast Main Line. This was an odd routing for 4M68, which one would have expected to turn off onto the Manchester line. Moreover, both liners had the same timing load of 1,050 tons, so why 4M70 should be given priority is unclear also.

Turning now to motive power, the vast majority of electric services were in the

hands of Class 86. A few had Class 85s but Classes 82 to 84 were conspicuously absent. Another notable absent type was Class 87. Built with only train air braking equipment, these brand new locomotives in 1975 were unable to haul the old vacuum-braked Mark 1 stock that made up the overnight passenger, mails and parcels trains and were largely used on Freightliner trains during the night hours.

Diesel traction provided an unusual amount of variety at Crewe when compared to the daytime. Classes 25 and 47 were no surprise, whilst the Aberystwyth-York and its balancing working still managed the Cambrian line stalwart of a boiler-fitted Class 24. At this time. Crewe Diesel retained fifteen '50s' and so there was nothing out of the ordinary when examples put in appearances. The highlights were, however, finding a Class 31 on the Peterborough mails and a Canton-based Class 46 on the similar working from Cardiff. Neither of these designs graced Crewe station during the day. Of course, there was an '08' on hand to shunt, primarily, parcels vans around.

One can be maudlin for what has ended but that is the way of the world. Crewe's platforms are less cluttered today without the parcels and mailbag trolleys of yesteryear. Faster speed has cut the demand for a multiplicity of sleeper services and Royal Mail has largely taken its business to other forms of transport. Nevertheless, it is worth remembering how the railway used to be.





In the early hours of 1st February 1975, 08132 is seen attached to some of the vehicles at the rear of the 00:02 parcels from Cardiff. Note the variety of vehicles in the train with GWR, LMSR and BR vehicles making up the formation.



24092 prepares to depart with the 21:50 York to Aberystwyth mail train on 1st February 1975.



The clock shows that it is 04:00 and 47209 has recently arrived with 4M09, the 00:02 parcels from Cardiff on 1st February 1975.

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01:45 02:07 1P46 22:50 Euston-Carlisle postal	01:40	01:43	1S26 23:30 Euston-Glasgow C
F 22	01:45	02:07	1P46 22:50 Euston-Carlisle postal
01:46 1V51 mail to Cardiff		01:46	1V51 mail to Cardiff
01:54 1170 news to Liverpool		01:54	11·70 news to Liverpool
01:55 02:12 1P54 23:45 Euston-Barrow-in-	01:55	02:12	1P54 23:45 Euston-Barrow-in-



Furness 01:58 02:01 3V05 21:00 Glasgow Parcels Station-Bristol 02:00 4D02 parcels to Nottingham PCD 02:00 02:11 4B16 parcels to Northampton 3F53 00:30 Rugby-Liverpool 02:17 02:45 parcels 02:22 4V07 parcels to Gloucester 02:23 1D92 to Holyhead mail 02:34 4II05 parcels to Manchester 7F02 22:30 Willesden-Folly Lane 02:49 02:51 02:57 02:54 7F67 01:40 RWS Bescot-Edge Lane 02:57 03:07 1A03 00:55 Holyhead-Euston 03:03 03:05 1M13 22:10 Glasgow-Euston 03:15 03:08 1M11 23:10 Glasgow C-Euston 03:15 03:21 1F01 00:50 Euston-Liverpool LS 03:20 1M10 22:30 Glasgow C-Euston 03:18 03:24 04:58 3M20 19:54 London Liverpool Street-Liverpool Lime Street 03:25 03:44 1A04 01:10 Holyhead-Euston 03:28 1K93 02:50 from Manchester 03:36 4M09 00:02 parcels from Cardiff 03:41 03:53 4M68 22:20 Millbrook FLT-Trafford Park FLT liner 03:53 1M12 21:40 Perth-Euston 03:43 03:50 1G00 to Birmingham NS (portion ex 1M12) 03:50 4M01 22:20 parcels from Reading 03:55 1K00 news to Stoke-on-Trent 04:09 04:46 4M13 18:00 Penzance-Manchester parcels 04:18 04:28 1V56 23:50 Glasgow C-Bristol 04:30 04:40 1M15 19:30 Inverness-Euston 04:39 05:50 4J02 03:44 Guide Bridge-Shrewsbury parcels 05:35 04:56 4M00 00:35 Gloucester Eastgate-Manchester Mayfield parcels 04:57 05:09 1M14 22:35 Stranracr Harbour-Euston

It is just before 03:00 on 1st February 1975 and 50029 has just arrived with1A03, the 00:55 Holyhead to Euston boat train and is being uncoupled ready for an electric locomotive to take the train south.



3M20, the 19:54 London Liverpool Street to Liverpool Lime Street parcels was scheduled to stand at Crewe from 03:24 to 04:58 and is seen on the 11th January 1975 behind 86232.



1M44, the 19:30 Glasgow to Euston TPO stopped at Crewe for half an hour between 23:56 and 00:25 and is seen on 11th January 1975 headed by 86211.



The clock shows that it is 02:10 and 86250 has just arrived with 1P54, the 23:45 Euston to Barrow-in-Furness. On the adjacent platform is the stock for the 01:54 news and mail train to Liverpool Lime Street which has clearly been delayed. The date is 11th January 1975.



On 31st January 1975, 31242 has arrived with 1M58, the 20:00 mail train from Peterborough and has drawn forward after uncoupling. The driver has already set the headcode for the return working 1E74, the 00:44 postal to Peterborough North.



It is 23:25 on 31st January 1975. There is obviously a problem as the staff are checking something between the locomotive, 86226, and the first coach of the 20:50 'Royal Highlander' from Euston to Inverness.

June 1973: Luton station and its surrounds provided plenty of photographic potential, which Kevin used to good effect. An unidentified 'split-box' Class 45 is just 30 miles into its lengthy journey from the capital to South Yorkshire atop 1E26, the 14:05 SuX departure from St. Pancras to Sheffield. The male hairstyles and fashions of the day are 'modelled' by the gentleman sitting in the BRUTE trolley! Look carefully and you'll glimpse a solitary Class 33 lurking nearby having worked in from the Southern Region with a cement train to Dunstable. In addition, 'Westerns' were no strangers to the area on stone trains from the Mendips to the stone terminal near Leagrave.



Midland Main Line Miscellany Part Two: Luton Interlude

David J. Hayes continues his selection of photographs taken by Kevin Lane and showing the Midland Main Line railway infrastructure around Luton in this study from the pre-electrification era.

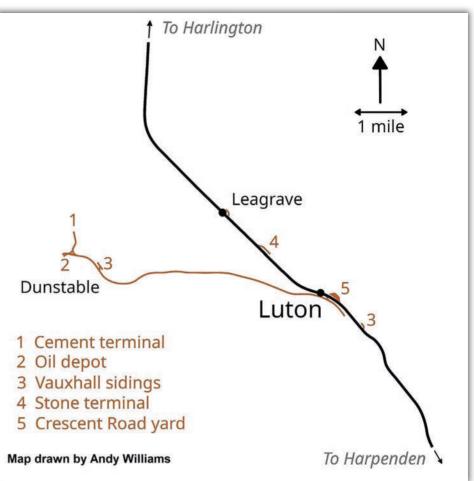






April 7th 1977: With Crescent Road Goods Yard visible to the left of the 'Peak', 45122 approaches Luton station with a 'Down' express from London. Note the wonderful array of pre-electrification railway infrastructure.





(LEFT) August 1975: A major source of rail freight traffic generated in the Luton area was provided by the automotive industry. A raft of 'auto-flats' laden with a mixture of Bedford TK trucks and Vauxhall cars are shunted by an unidentified Class 08, although the white truck is actually a Ford 'D'. Further Ford 'D' types can also be seen in the background standing in Crescent Road Goods Yard (a colour version of this image can be found on Kevin's 'Lost-Albion' Flickr site).



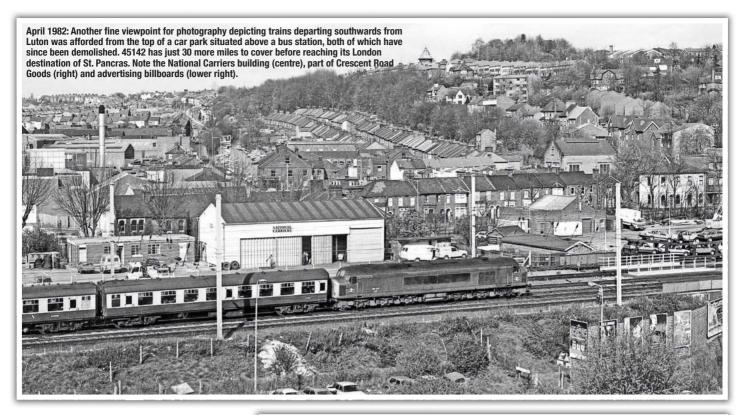
October 5th 1978: 'Peak' 45148 prepares to depart Luton with an express for London while 25183 has charge of a short raft of 'Pres-flo' cement wagons and a brake van for Dunstable. The cement terminal at Dunstable was regularly supplied from Northfleet. However, the cement wagons seen in this view would imply that this was a service from elsewhere and was most likely running as an additional special.



July 5th 1979: We now see a Class 127 four-car unit departing from Luton with a service from Bedford to St. Pancras, as viewed from Crawley Green road bridge. The headcode 1G13 would appear to be incorrect for such a working and perhaps should read 2C13? Interestingly, four-character headcode displays were officially abolished by British Rail in January 1976, but appear to have continued being used on MML secondary passenger service for some years after. The Crescent Road goods facility is clearly visible in this view and contains an assortment of rolling stock along with a Class 25. The short raft of tanker wagons stabled between the fast and slow lines is believed to be a portion from a Ripple Lane to Dunstable service.



Circa 1981: Crawley Green road bridge, to the south of Luton station, afforded good photogenic views of southbound trains, but all this was about to change with the then forthcoming 'Bed-Pan' electrification (note the electrification masts). A 'split-box' Class 45 'Peak' (believed to be 45120) heads for the capital with an 'Up' express. A couple of Class 25s are also visible and Crescent Road Goods looks to contain a healthy volume of traffic, which includes Bedford truck chassis and international ferry vans, the latter including refrigerated types (far right) used for perishables such as fruits, meats and vegetables. Believed to be one of the last flows using refrigerated wagons in the UK these were for the import movement of offal to Melton Mowbray for Pedigree Petfoods, which ceased circa 1990 (a colour version of this image can be found on Kevin's 'Lost-Albion' Flickr site).





May 1979: The next couple of views are believed to have been taken at or near the site of what is now Luton Airport Parkway station. A Class 127 four-car unit forming a St. Pancras to Bedford service heads for Luton. The spur visible in the background, leading from the 'Up' slow line, served the Vauxhall Motors plant (see next image).



April 1981: Class 25 No. 25190 delivers a couple of 16-ton mineral wagons to Vauxhall Motors' Luton plant, which was sited just to the south of the town. The wagons were apparently used for out-going scrap metal/off-cuts rather than for the delivery of coal. Note that the 'Bed-Pan' electrification catenary is already in place on the main lines.



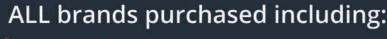
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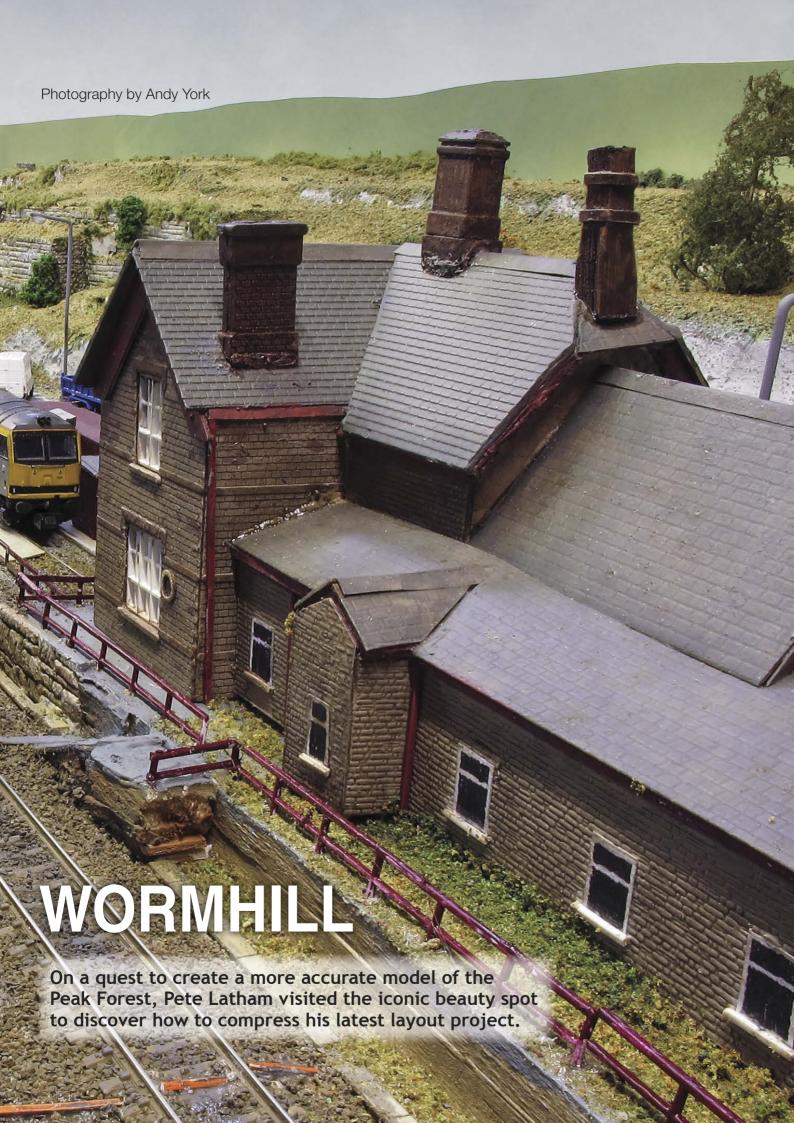
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he through-lines at Peak Forest are on a slope and Pete's first challenge was to replicate this. The difficult part was making the board drop one inch across the front and climb back up to the fiddleyard. Four tracks had to be turned into one, as the layout is basically a loop. The new Peco Code 80 curved points helped and have been used on both corners. The hidden curves use Peco Code 80 set-track. The rest of the track and points are Peco Code 55 which Pete has used since they appeared over 30 years ago.

Once the track and electrics were completed it was time to check it all worked. Pete decided it needed four switches to isolate or power four locomotive-length sections on the stabling point. There are only seven power feeds on the layout because the point blades are used for electrical continuity.

Next came the scenic work. Magazines were scoured for articles and photographs, and a friend, Andy Small, supplied Pete with a series of photographs he had taken.

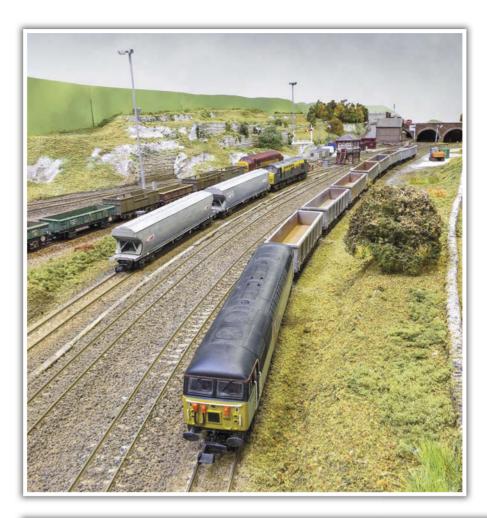
The basic landform was constructed from the polystyrene packing from his new kitchen, although he prefers polyurethane insulation material. The backscene is rigid foam advertising material disposed of by a local fashion store. Only then did the ballasting begin, mainly with a mix of mainly Woodland Scenics products. The track was given a light spray of Humbrol 29 from a can. The hillsides and embankments were covered in papier-mâché made from newspaper, dilute PVA and a little dull green paint. Scatter was added, mostly Woodland Scenics Blended Turf Earth Blend.

Pete didn't want the backscene to dominate, so cut out rough hillside shapes and sprayed them with Vauxhall Reed Green from Halfords. Some pieces had one spray, others two to vary the tone. The few trees on the layout mostly came from the Model Tree Shop and many were given an early-autumn appearance.

There are few buildings at Peak Forest. The two small Portacabins were cut from one Knightwing kit, and the relay cabinets came from the same source and Peco. Cable trunking is from Ratio, and the signal box is from Hornby's Lyddle End range, although not 100% correct. Lights are made from a brush bristle topped with a lamp from craft shop, Adhesive Sparkly Gems. The refuelling point uses scrap box bits and a Farish Container.

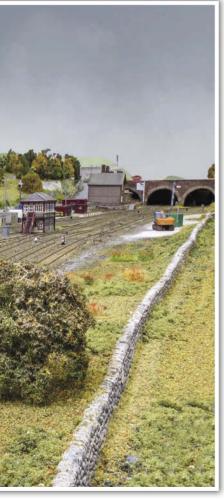
Locomotives are predominantly Class 60s plus Classes 66, 37, 56, 31 and the odd Class 47. Many of these have been renumbered, re-liveried and lightly weathered. In total there are 18 trains and room for five or six locomotives on the stabling point or refuelling point. Stock on this layout is obviously focussed on stone traffic. There are usually five unloaded trains and four loaded. Other trains include engineers' stock which is largely kit-built, with a token railtour passenger train and fuel tanks.

Wagons used on the layout include JGAs, MEAs and PGAs from Bachmann/Farish and Cargowagons from Dapol. Kits from the N Gauge Society include PNAs, ZUAs and YQA. Taylor Precision Models provided MKAs, VDA and VCA as well as the MOD PDAs. CSA wagons used BH Enterprises tanks as a basis and the INAs are converted continental bogie opens, mainly from Roco.













Words and photography: Andy York



Locomotion Models Class 33 exclusive

omplementing Heljan's recent release of main range Class 33 locomotives, Locomotion Models has commissioned an exclusive edition of 'Crompton' D6535, part of the National Collection. This is the first exclusive edition model produced for Locomotion Models by the Danish manufacturer.

Built by the Birmingham Railway Carriage & Wagon Company, it was delivered on December 10, 1960, entering service on British Railways Southern Region as D6535.

It was renumbered 33116 on December 31, 1973, and was named *Hertfordshire Rail Tours* on December 11, 1993, at Weymouth station by John Farrow and Ian Kapur of Hertfordshire Rail Tours. The name was carried until April 1998.

It was withdrawn from traffic in August 1998 and stored out of use at Old Oak Common until June 2003, when it was acquired for the National Collection. D6535 was push/pull fitted and was usually found operating with non-powered 4TC units on non-electrified lines on the Southern Region. These were designated as Class 33/1 locomotives for push/pull working, which was commonplace between Bournemouth and Weymouth prior to completion of the Weymouth electrification scheme in 1988.

The National Railway Museum loaned D6535 to the Great Central Railway in April 2005, where it has been located ever

since and where it is available for traffic, although it looks in need of some cosmetic restoration to bring it up to the standard of Heljan's delightful decoration.

This recent reworking of Heljan's Class 33 features the re-tooled bogie sideframes with the springing correctly inset, which, to me, makes a big difference to the appearance. The body retains the moulded style of bodyside grilles, which I find preferable to the etched type of grille fitted to the re-tooled early variant Class 33/0 of a few years ago. Where this model particularly shines is the quality of decoration with the white-walled tyres and painted axle roller bearings, even before getting to the body decoration.

The model is delivered with printed Hertfordshire Rail Tours nameplates and Eastleigh 'Spitfire' depot plaques but is further improved by the inclusion of etched plates from Shawplan's Extreme Etchings range. These are as good as one can get and sit perfectly over the printed renditions.

The detailing pack supplied includes bufferbeam detailing – although much of this is already attached – cosmetic buckeye couplings and snowploughs. There are sufficient parts for both ends, but full detailing would preclude the use of the included tension-lock couplings. The pack also includes blue-painted cab-to-shore radio cover pods for each cab roof. Care should be taken to ensure you are happy with the placement compared with

prototype photographs before fitting these into position.

The performance of the model is as good as it always has been, with ample mass and a strong motor giving stronger model performances than the prototype ever did.

Overall, it's a useful and capable model enhanced by top-quality decoration and provision of extras for the modeller to get the best out of it.

Manufacturer: Heljan for Locomotion Models

Catalogue Refs:

(475150) 33116 Hertfordshire Rail Tours

RRP: £139

Gauge/scale: 16.5mm gauge, 1:76

scale, OO **Era:** 7 to 9

Company/Operator: BR Chassis and Body: Die-cast

chassis and plastic body

Weight: 658g

Minimum curve radius: 438mm (R2)

Wheel Profile: RP25

Couplings: tension-locks and

cosmetic buckeyes

Accessories: Snowploughs, etched plates, radio pods



Heljan reveals decorated samples of Class 86

eljan's OO gauge BR 'AL6' (Class 86/0) models are almost ready for production. The manufacturer admits that, despite a lengthy delay to its Class 86s, it is confident that these will be released this autumn, alongside its new OO gauge Class 25s. As this factory decorated sample shows, they take the story of the '86s' back to the beginning, covering original BR 1960s blue and Rail Blue livery variations across the 1965-80 period. The pre-production versions are subject to improvements and corrections.

Seven versions will be offered, ranging from 'as delivered' BR blue with red bufferbeams and white upper cab areas through to late-1970s Rail Blue with TOPS numbers.

Improvements over its previous Class 86s include LED lighting, a 21-pin DCC decoder interface, retooled bodies with improved shape and finer detail, and a new finer scale Faiveley pantograph.



Kernow to produce GBRf Class 50s for 'N'

odel retailer, Kernow Model Rail Centre has commissioned Dapol to produce two N gauge Class 50 models in GBRf colours. Kernow Model Rail Centre's models will reflect the small but important differences between the livery of the two locomotives. 50007 Hercules and 50049 Defiance were unveiled on March 20, 2019, at Eastleigh following their repainting into GBRf colours. 50007 was revealed to have the identity of 50014 Warspite on one side.

Expected mid-2021, models in the twinpack are to be made available in DCCready, DCC-fitted and DCC sound-fitted guises.

GBRf worked closely with the Class 50 Alliance, owners of 50007 and 50049,

enabling a return to the main line for its locomotives in 2017 and subsequently through a programme of railtours during 2018 as part of the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the Class 50s. The decision to repaint the locomotives into the new livery was a recognition of the developing relationship between the two organisations and marked a new chapter in the story of the Class 50s. Over the past few years, GBRf has invested in a programme of driver training to enable Class 50 operation over most of the UK rail network.

The repaints were carried out by Arlington Fleet Services at Eastleigh. The first outing for the GBRf-liveried Class 50s was on Saturday, March 23, when they worked Pathfinder Tours' TeminatorPhoenixed railtour from London Paddington to Penzance and return to Waterloo. This marked 25 years since the final BR-operated Class 50 railtour over the same route, The Terminator, which was also promoted by Pathfinder.



Accurascale unveils HYA/IIA coal/aggregate hopper

ccurascale is to produce models of the HYA/IIA bogie hopper wagon in OO gauge. The manufacturer has said it has worked on the project between its Class 37, Mk. 5 coaches, Class 92, and "other projects yet to be announced." The wagons are to be made available via the network of Accurascale approved stockists.

The manufacturer has been dealing with tooling backlogs on its Mk. 5 coach and 'Deltic' changes but started cutting metal on the tooling for the wagons before the pandemic closed down its factories. Samples have been in its possession for a few months.

Photographs of a pre-production sample of the bulky wagons have emerged and Accurascale has been assessing the model with tooling improvements due to be completed in September. The changes include better securing of the cabling along the body side, better fit and finish at the top of the ends of the wagons, and finer renditions of the operating handles.

Accurascale will be offering these wagons in unpainted GBRf with coal branding, unpainted Fastline Freight, unpainted Fastline Freight with GE logos, and unpainted Fastline with Touax logos.

A wagon in GBRf guise and one in Fastline livery are to feature a working tail lamp for additional realism to model operations.

Decorated samples of the wagons are due in September and will move into production if they meet approval, with delivery scheduled for Q2, 2021.



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33116/D6535 'Hertfordshire Rail Tours' is part of the National Collection and is currently on loan to the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire.

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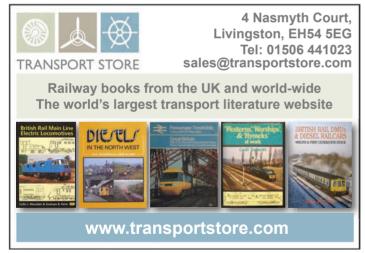














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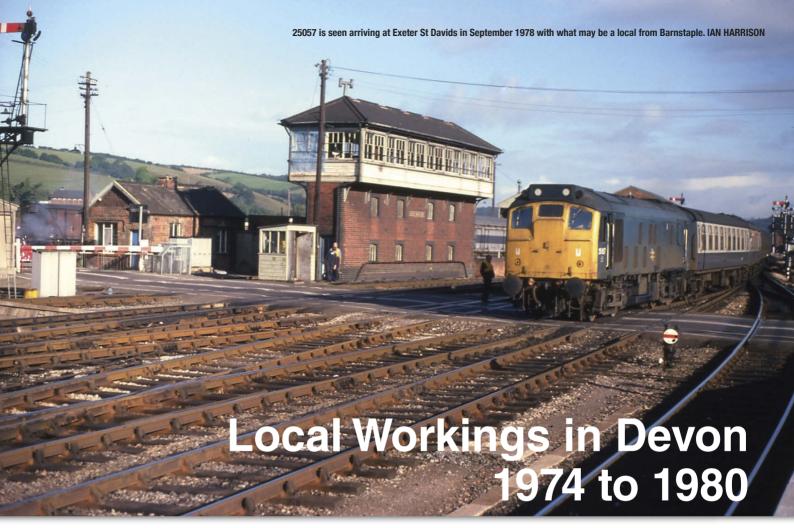


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Nick Edwards looks back at Devon in the mid and late 1970s with the emphasis on the workings of the less glamorous small diesel classes rather than the more popular 'Western' hydraulics and Class 46s.

26.03.74

Whilst waiting for 1A65 15:55 ex Paignton to arrive on Platform 3 at Newton Abbot 1E73 15:10 Plymouth to Leeds would arrive on Platform 4. Rarely of interest to 'Western' bashers it was normally formed off the 1V62 07:04 ex Derby. On this day it crept into Newton hauled by 25065 and 25081. This was pretty rare even though '25s' in the West of England weren't. Of course it was rejected because 1A65 was a 'Western' but this is the first small loco working I can recall,

10.09.74

The 16:10 Exeter to Barnstaple was hauled by either a Class 25 or a 31. On this date the '31' went pop and unusually there was nothing else that could go to Barnstaple so the 3 car Class 119 which was waiting to work the 17:03 to Axminster was substituted. Without a unit for the Axminster the movements office at St Davids plonked 46007 on the four coaches that should have gone to Barnstaple. Even though we were hardcore 'Western' bashers this was recognised as a rare working so a privilege quarter return to Axminster was purchased (probably just a few pennies) and we waited for the off. At this time this was a one way working so

it would be out at Axminster to await the 15:00 ex Waterloo home. The unit would go empty coaching stock (ECS) to Chard Junction and then ECS back to Exeter. 46007 would also have to do this to run round but the guard allowed us to stay on board back to Exeter so we had a round trip with 46007!

05.09.75

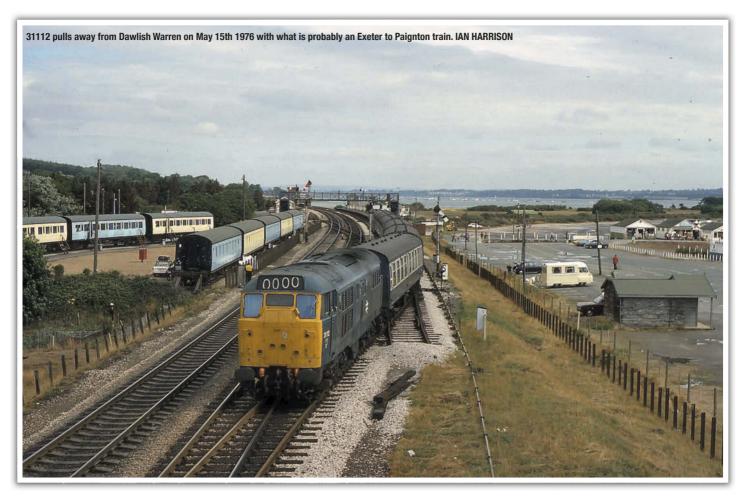
Amazing as it may seem the railway used to acknowledge that there were seasonal loading patterns and would run specials to cater for this. This was particularly true down west with the holiday trade. There were numerous long standing specials but one that only ran for one season (well at least in my experience) was 1Z37 09:10 Exeter to Newguay. This ran about ten minutes in front of 1B81 08:00 Bristol to Penzance so bashers in theory had a choice. However on the previous three days 1Z37 had a Class 50 and then 47089 'Amazon' (or Amazin' Raisins as it used to be known down here!) for two days. However, on this date D1059 'Western Empire' was up the front of four coaches. Calling at the same stops as 1B81 this was guite a thrash and on this date, as I was armed with a West of England rail rover, sampled it all the way to the Atlantic coast.

16.08.76

In the summer of '76 we all seemed preoccupied with a certain class of motive power and I can only find one move that featured a small loco on a Devon local. Sure there were lots of locals formed of London sets either before or after working from Paignton with 'Thousands' but these are a bit out of the scope and already well documented. On the above date there wasn't a lot of 'Western' action so some fill in moves were necessary, one being 25200 working 2B20 09:55 Exeter to Paignton.

15.04.77

The end of the 'Westerns' in February 1977 saw people go many different ways. I chose to bash 'Peaks', in particular Laira Class 46s, so the NE/SW route and many of the Western Region internal trains were meat and drink for us. Moves usually started either with 1S27 (Plymouth to Edinburgh) going north or 1B78 (06:30 Bristol to Plymouth) going west. On this day Laira had chucked out a steam heating Class 47 for 1S27 so we waited on Platform 1 for the Bristol as this was a bit late. It eventually arrived with 31254 on load 9: 3 coaches and 6 vans. For the novelty factor it was taken to Newton Abbot for 1E30. However. as it was running late, we saw 1E30 arrive



with yet another '47' up the front. So the move was now 1B78 to Plymouth for 1M85. Obviously control thought load 9 was too much for a single Class 31 so stuck 50007 on the front. Both drivers decided to have a go and a lively run over the Devon banks ensued.

18.04.77

A few days later there was the first of a flurry of small engines from unusual depots that were seen in the spring and summer of 1977. This was 31207 (a Finsbury Park steam heating loco) which worked 2B43 19:35 Exeter to Paignton. This was the stock off the 15:00 ex Waterloo and was dual heated. I remember the 'Waterloo' stock was actually branded on the coach end 'Electric heat to work between Exeter and Waterloo only'. Not sure why this was...... Anyway 31207 was taken from Newton Abbot to Paignton as a fill in move for 1E61 home.

07.06.77

With summer well and truly on the way 2B44 produced 31323 from Immingham depot and another rare one down west.

11.08.77

Normally the 18:15 ex Paignton to Newton Abbot was formed of the stock off the 'Devonian'. However, in the high summer of '77 BR decided to run it through to Taunton formed of a local set of vacuum braked stock. On this date it was Old Oak Common's 31304 on load 5 doing the honours. This wasn't that rare as '31s' did occasionally work trains north of Exeter.

16.08.77

The 18:15 Paignton to Taunton was hauled by 25216, one of Laira's no boiler locos that normally worked freight trains off St Blazey. As the Plymouth to Cardiff was a Class 47 the '25' was taken to Taunton for 1V94 and it gave a good account of itself on load 5.

29.08.77

2B41 09:55 Exeter to Paignton was often a good bet for a 'chuck out' and on this occasion it was 50017 on load 5 plus a GUV. At the time 50017 was still carrying double BR arrows on the cab ends. Indeed it still had them when it was named 'Royal Oak' the following year and became the only '50' to carry a nameplate and double arrows. Although the use of a '50' wouldn't be seen as rare in later years to get one on a local in 1977 meant it was restricted to local work at 75mph only by Laira.

07.06.78

Fast forward nearly a year and we find ourselves doing a minimal move to Exeter Central. The Waterloo line was still firmly in the clutches of the Class 33s and it was rare to get anything else such was their

reliability. However, on this date whatever came down on 1V09 was not able to go back so 31107 (Tinsley depot) and 31137 (Thornaby depot) were plonked on the front. I took the train for a three quarter of a mile trip up to Exeter Central followed by a quick march back down the hill through the town! I don't know how far they went but at least as far as Salisbury. I'm also not sure where they came from but it was likely to have been off the Ripple Lane to City Basin tar tanks which was a solid '31' turn, although usually from Stratford depot.

10.06.78

On Saturdays there was a 21:00 Exeter to Newton Abbot formed I think with the stock off the 17:00 ex Waterloo which arrived about 20:40. Whilst Laira '25s' were common pairs of them were less so. On this date 25058 and 25080 were sampled to Newton Abbot.

14.06.78

Evening moves were always problematic as being bowled on one move meant the rest of the evening was a wash out so one often took whatever was on offer. Normally the 18:44 Exeter to Paignton was formed with the stock off the 12:30 Paddington to Paignton and 16:40 Paignton to Exeter. However, in the summer the train was formed of a set of local vacuum braked coaches and a Type 2. However, on this dreary wet June evening, this and the 20:40

Newton Abbot to Paignton and 21:15 return were formed hauled by 45016. Although clearly not a 46 it 'had a nose' and with little else on offer I stuck with it. At Newton after putting the stock in the carriage sidings it even re-engined 1E61 so it was a one engine evening! I was a little peeved at the time but what wouldn't we give to be able to do that again?

15.06.78

The next day saw 2B20 14:20 Exeter to Paignton hauled by 50020. This was another rare liveried loco as in this case it was named but still carried its double arrow on the bodyside rather than under the secondman's window as with other named locos. It's likely that 'Revenge' was also restricted to local workings by Laira.

19.06.78

A few days later and its back to small stuff. The 19:30 Exeter to Paignton was a regular for small and rare locos as it was basically a 'kick out' on a one leg journey. On this date it was 25184 (Wigan Springs Branch) that did the honours and was sampled down 'the branch'.

14.07.78

Into the high summer now and more 'no boiler' locos were making it west. As usual it was the 19:30 from Exeter that dropped with 31144 (Immingham) up front. Also on this date 31401 (Bristol Bath Road but transferred there from Finsbury Park in February 1978) was out on 2B17 17:30 Paignton to Exeter and 2B44 18:44 Exeter to Paignton. Although ETH Class 31s wouldn't turn a head in a few years, at the time they were quite rare away from the Cardiff to Portsmouth service that they were allocated to Bristol for.

16.07.78

Cricklewood's small allocation of steam heat Class 45s were always a bit rare so when 45033 was turned out for 2B09 09:50 Exeter to Paignton with load 5 it had to be sampled.

18.07.78

It seems incredible now but back then you could still do a move to Paignton at 21:00 in the evening with a Class 25 in and a different one out. On this date with not much else about 25166 (Toton) was taken on 19:30 ex Exeter for a mooch around the amusement arcades and some chips before returning with 25058 on 21:15 Paignton to Newton Abbot for the standard finishing move of 1E61 home.

23.07.78

With reduced options on a Sunday (although by today's standards astonishingly busy!) strange workings were

often taken without sacrificing too much Class 46 mileage. On this date the word was that the normal 2B99 18:00 Exeter to Barnstaple would be formed of air braked stock and two Class 25s. This would return on the normal 19:06 from Barnstaple but extended to Penzance as an excursion. A couple of rare '25s' and air braked coaches to Barnstaple was tempting so 25155 and 25207 were had for 78 miles with 8 air braked coaches and a BG; these were off the 1V76/1M85 circuit. I can't remember the nature of the excursion but vaguely recall it may have been a religious outing. On arrival back at Exeter at 20:10 you could still do a move to get two more 'Peaks' in. Oh! How times have changed!

14.08.78

Further west BR grudgingly acknowledged that the British weather may not always be clement. So they ran a couple of extras to Plymouth from Paignton and Newguay. The latter is outside the scope of this review but the former was always a good bet for a 'chuck out' from Laira, particularly stuff that was local working only. Paignton was served by a 10:00 departure and 16:40 return from North Road. The stock was a motley selection of vacuum braked coaches hanging around between summer Saturdays. On this date Laira was using 46002 which at the time was full domino headcode and the standard 'Laira blue' livery. This wasn't everyone's cup of tea but to me and the rest of the 'Real Peak Army' an absolute monster.

26.07.78

Just to confirm Laira's nonchalant approach to local workings 2B33 16:40 Plymouth to Paignton load 8 was entrusted to 25206, one of the rarer no boiler china clay locos.

28.07.78

Another no boiler loco 25248 worked 2B46 11:10 Paignton to Exeter. This was the return of the 09:55 ex Exeter.

07.09.78

Fast forward to the shortening evenings and what was possibly the biggest working in the time frame of this review. 4B10 16:10 Bristol to Plymouth parcels was a long standing service that had seen numerous 'Westerns' often using only one engine and some on their final working. However, on the this date a few of us idling at Taunton noticed a Class 25 round the corner. A more detailed look and we saw the lower cowling and then as it pulled along side we saw 25011, which at that time was allocated to Haymarket. We headed west and arrived at Exeter to see '011 on the 19:30 to Paignton. Well it would have been rude not to join the train.

14.09.78

A week later and with the evenings getting shorter and the holidaymakers getting fewer the reliable 19:30 from Exeter produced 25107 (Toton and no boiler) which was taken to Paignton for 25057 back on 21:15 to Newton Abbot.

11.06.79 and 12.06.79

Fast forward to the balmy early summer of 1979 and there was another rare bird down west in the former of Toton's no boiler 25115. On the first day it had obviously been on circuit as we had it on 21:15 ex Paignton and the next day it worked the 09:50 Exeter to Paignton.

08.07.79

Another Sunday and another odd 'Barny' line working that had to be had. For some reason (troop train springs to mind but I can't be sure) the 18:00 Exeter to Barnstaple was reclassified 1Z75 and formed of 6 coaches plus a GUV. The return was the booked 19:06 ex Barnstaple and the loco was Toton's no boiler 25249.

13.07.79

Diagrams had changed by now and the 19:30 ex Exeter had become the 19:37 and on a Friday at least was booked for the loco off the 15:00 ex Waterloo which of course meant a Class 33 along the seawall. Later years would see them working regularly but even this late they only really worked ECS to and from Newton Abbot and the very occasional advertised excursion. Again with not much else about and getting ready for an overnight 33117 was sampled down to Paignton. Whilst not that rare, the 'Bagpipes' were just one step down in rarity from a 'Slim Jim'.

17.07.79

The opportunity to have 33052 (Hither Green) rather than the usual Eastleigh locos on the 19:37 ex Exeter was a bit tempting. Also I had a 'fill in' move this day with 31405 (Finsbury Park with a white stripe) on 2B73 17:30 Paignton to Exeter.

07.08.79

A few weeks later and an urge to 'get outta town' saw 25048 sampled on 2B33 16:40 Plymouth to Paignton from the start. With load 8 the '25' did well to clear Hemerdon in 10 minutes and 14 seconds; not bad compared to a Type 4 on the same load which would do the same in about eight and half minutes.

18.07.79

For a 'Peak' basher the Devon locals were not that productive a seam but when there were 16 wheels for some reason it was rateable. As it was a warm summer's day it didn't matter that Exeter chucked out Toton's no boiler 45072 on the circuit that started with 2B09 09:50 Exeter to Paignton. For me it was the day of the no boiler '45s' having on various workings which 45004, 45045, 45068, 45072 and 45077.

28.07.79

There were few locals on summer Saturdays because under absolute block working there was little capacity other than for the Saturday extras. One little known working was formed of just two spare air braked coaches and left Newton Abbot at 06:13 as 2B02. On this date it was 46033 making its way to Paignton to work a Saturday only service north.

10.08.79

Another old faithful 2B20 14:20 Exeter to Paignton produced on this day with 25121 (Toton no boiler) doing the honours.

16.05.80

A very sad year for me as I said 'goodbye' to bashing in any meaningful sense. As I had now been a driver's assistant for sometime and discovered beer and girls, trains were taking a back seat. And fate would play a huge part in my decision. Anyway on this day with withdrawals already on the cards it

was good to have 45005 (a Toton 'rocket' as the Midland lads knew them) on 2B44 18:58 Exeter to Paignton.

25.05.80

Coming off an early turn ballast job I had a look at the loco sheets in the foreman's office. If nothing was out I'd head home for a kip, if there was I'd make a move. I scanned down and saw '46009 2B45 14:45 Exeter to Paignton' so my mind was made up. This was my last Laira '46' for haulage and also one of the first I drove as a driver's assistant and so held a special place in my mind. It was a sad day to see it end its days as it did in a field in near Old Dalby when the nuclear flask accident test was carried out.

15.06.80

This wasn't quite the last little engine I had but it was the last I had on the Devon circuit that had been such a part of my life for a long time. Not surprisingly it was on the Sundays only 14:45 to Paignton as it got you to Newton Abbot for trains with big engines going north. On this day 25152 (Toton no boiler) was at the helm.

11.07.80

This was the end of an era in many ways.

Ever since the 'Thousands' had gone 46012 (probably because it was Laira blue and looked pretty rough) had been 'my machine'. Even though more '46s' went through Derby after this date for some reason 46012 was deemed to be the first of the cull that was to take place later in 1980. Right up to this date it had been active and reliable. However, for reasons known only to a few people this was to be its last day. As I was on a rest day I had it on 1V67 and ended up with it on 2B31 16:40 Paignton to Exeter. On arrival at Exeter it was hooked off and later ran light to Laira and withdrawal. For me that was all I needed to call it a day even though I still did a few All Lines Rovers and other bashes on 'privilege boxes'.

And sa...

Its easy for 'lay people' to knock railway enthusiasts but even though they are quite a few who do manage to give rise to the stereotypes many of us had a great time with great people and gained a knowledge of this country like few others. That we could understand other people's preferences just shows how 'normal' we were. Would I do it again? Too right! In fact if anyone ever invents a time machine I think bashers will be first in the queue.



Dawlish Warren with a westbound local service on 9th September 1979. IAN HARRISON



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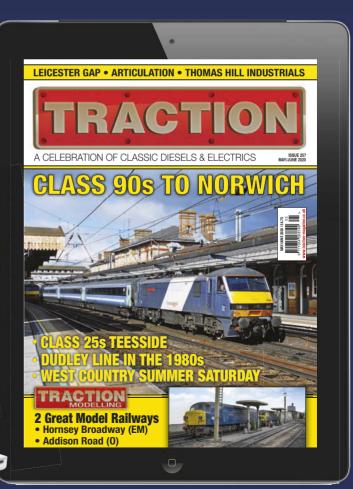
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This orange-and-black apparition surprised the author on his holiday with his wife Mary. On 24th April 2019 he walked to the outer end of the terminal part of Dresden Hauptbahnhof's available platform and took this photograph of former DB (West Germany) B-B No 221 135, which is now owned by Bocholter Eisenbahngesellschaft, shunting infrastructure wagons. But what do the words 'Schwatte Liebe' on the side of the locomotive really mean? (Ed. A literal translation is 'weak love' but these words are also the motto of the football club 1. FC Bocholt and the owner of the railway company has used this locomotive to publicise his local team!)

Colin Boocock and his wife went on a short holiday to Germany enjoy the classical architecture and histories of Berlin and Dresden. But other classics turned up, too!

was looking out of our bedroom window in Dresden. The hotel overlooked one side of the Hauptbahnhof (the main station). Behind one of the platform awnings I could see the top of a locomotive that I was certain did not belong there. It had two sharply-angled front cab windscreens, a black top and orange sides, at least as far down as I could see. Then it moved sufficiently to reveal a bit more of its shape – it was undoubtedly a former West German V200.1, later Class 221. What on earth was it doing so far east as Dresden, an area in which that type never worked when in Deutsche Bundesbahn service?

It was there again the next morning and I could no longer resist going into the station and traipsing to the outer end of one of the accessible platforms. There in front of me was No. 221.135, painted in orange-and-black, lettered up 'Schwatte Liebe' and coupled to a set of three low-sided bogie infrastructure wagons. A small team was working on demolishing the old low platforms in the central part of the terminus area and putting in place modern, higher platforms. 221.135 was helping them by shifting the spoil they dug up and supplying new materials.

The Class 221 was DB's 2,700bhp B-B uprated diesel hydraulic based on the 1950s V200 design. (One wonders why the British

Railways version, the 'Westerns', had to be a C C design rather than a lightweight B-B like this.) The 221s were used all over the DB system on express passenger trains.

221.135 is owned by a small company called Bocholter Eisenbahngesellschaft. It owns four diesel locomotives plus a small shunting engine and claims to run freight trains all over Germany. The company states its community aim as being to support local sports teams. 221.135 for example supports the FC Bocholt football team. The logo 'Schwatte Liebe' is the motto of the football club.

At the other end of the Hauptbahnhof a couple of days later I came across two more former DB locomotives that again would not have been there before reunification. This was a pair of Class 140s, Nos. 140.046 (ex DB 140.837) and 140.050 (ex DB 140.833), in the light blue livery of the company that owns the narrow gauge Pressnitztalbahn on the Isle of Rügen. The 140s were DB mixed traffic Bo-Bos dating from the 1950s.

A couple of days later, Mary and I were on the station platform at Saalfeld in Thuringia when we heard a lot of raucous singing and jollity. It wasn't quite nine o'clock in the morning, yet there was much noise afoot on the far side of the station. The source of the masculine singing was

the inhabitants of a football special that was due out very shortly.

I wandered over to see more, and was surprised to note that the locomotive at the head of the special was a former DB Class 110 express Bo-Bo, No 110.278. This was pleasing to me because I had never before seen an electric locomotive at Saalfeld (we had only been there once in 1978 to photograph the remaining main line steam workings), and this was a West German locomotive working in what had been the East. It belongs to the Centralbahn company based in Basel in Switzerland, though the stock is kept in southern Germany. The company rents out locomotives and stock for passenger specials, of which this was one.

I should not omit to mention three other surprises during our week-long holiday. At the east end of Dresden Hbf was parked one of the former DR Class 132 Co-Co Soviet-built diesel electrics. This carried the number 132.293. This was unusual in modern times because, post reunification, former DR class designations were altered to fit in with West German ones with the former Class 132 becoming Class 232. The owners of the locomotive, Erfurter Bahn Service (EBS), have have repainted and renumbered the locomotive with its former DR number.

We saw another 232 at Erfurt when we were on our way home. This was heading up an enthusiasts' special train that had been deposited there by a Class 41 2-8-2 steam locomotive. I nearly missed that. It was my wife Mary who spotted it and said to me: "Look, there's a steam locomotive!" I must be getting old!

All photographs are by the author, Colin Boocock.

Another pair of locomotives that, under private ownership, had strayed widely from their former working area was this pair of ex-DB Class 140 Bo-Bo electrics Nos. 140.046 (ex DB 140.837) and 140.050 (ex DB 140.833), also seen at Dresden Hbf, this time on 25th April 2019. They belong to the train hire business owned by the Pressnitztalbahn group, identified by the 'Press' logo on the bodysides and cab fronts.





This former DB Bo-Bo express electric, No 110.278, was at Saalfeld at the head of a football special on 27th April 2019. This class, in the old days, was never seen in East Germany. The locomotive belongs to Centralbahn, which is a Swiss company.



Once very familiar at Dresden and around East Germany was this class of Soviet-built Co-Co diesel electric. 132.293 was parked at the east end of Dresden HBF on 25th April 2019; it is registered as 92 80 1232 293-1 so officially retains its DB number 232.293. EWS's purchase of Railfreight Distribution saw them acquire the sector's Class 90 locomotives which continued to be used on the Channel Tunnel trains from Mossend and Trafford Park. No. 90021 heads 4A11, the 12:40 Trafford Park to Wembley, near Manchester Oxford Road station in July 1997 with most of the consist eventually destined for the Unilog hub at Muizen in Belgium.



David Ratcliffe looks at the development of intermodal traffic during the EWS years

Having purchased the three trainload freight companies (Loadhaul, Mainline, and Transrail) in 1996, the following year English Welsh & Scottish Railways were also the preferred bidder for Railfreight Distribution, resulting in them taking over responsibility for operating the Channel Tunnel intermodal services then running between Dollands Moor and the inland Euro-terminals situated at Daventry, Hams Hall, Mossend, Trafford Park, Wakefield and Willesden.

In addition to its Channel Tunnel business, EWS were also keen to attract other containerised traffic and consequently they increased the frequency of the weekly Doncaster International Railport to Harwich service, which had been introduced by Mainline in 1995, as well as trying to develop several other new flows. These would be conveyed either as less-than-trainload traffic by the 'Enterprise' wagonload network, which EWS had inherited from Transrail, or as dedicated point-to-point intermodal

services. However, whilst early growth was encouraging, not all of these new container trains would prove to be a success and some were withdrawn after only a few trial months of operation when loadings failed to meet expectations. At the same time much of the less-thantrainload container traffic which EWS managed to bring to rail in its first few years would also eventually be lost, falling victim to an economic downturn and corporate changes within EWS which would see its enthusiasm for wagonload freight gradually wither away. In contrast, and despite strong competition from Freightliner and later GBRf, the services which EWS introduced to and from the established container ports of Felixstowe and Southampton would prove to be more successful

Unfortunately the effect of a strong pound, coupled with competition from Eastern European road hauliers and the illegal immigrant crisis, resulted in the suspension or withdrawal of most



In 1998 EWS agreed to hire a Class 90 to Great North Eastern Railway to cover a power shortage whilst GNER's Class 91 fleet were overhauled. No. 90024 was selected and, although repainted in GNER blue, the locomotive could still turn up on other duties such as 4A13, the 13:10 MSX Trafford Park to Wembley, which is pictured at Deansgate station on 27th April 2000.





Channel Tunnel intermodal workings during 2001 and although this traffic had begun to pick up by 2003 it still fell well short of initial expectations. Some customers were reluctant to return their traffic to rail, while many of those that did now preferred to despatch their containers to a British port such as Purfleet or Thamesport from where they would make the short sea journey to the Continent.

Consequently EWS quickly introduced a handful of additional services to handle this traffic and at the same time some of the Euro-terminals began to diversify their business and started to handle Anglo-Scottish traffic. As a result, a number of new workings were added to the timetable linking Daventry, Hams Hall, and Trafford Park to Grangemouth and Mossed and, while initially most of these Anglo-Scottish trains were operated by EWS, in subsequent years much of this business would be taken over by either Freightliner, DRS or GBRf.

A solution was finally found to the Class 92's track circuit immunisation problems during 2000 enabling them to work traffic along the entire West Coast Main Line. No. 92024 'JS Bach' heads south at Crewe Basford Hall with 4M72, the 10:20 SO Mossend to Wembley intermodal service, on 21st April 2001. This train included portions for Milan Rogoredo and the French intermodal hub at Metz.



One of only two Class 92s to be repainted in EWS livery, No. 92001 'Victor Hugo', is seen passing through Ruby with 4069, the 14:01 Trafford Park to Dollands Moor, on 18th May 2005. By this date the Mossend to Wembley intermodal had been withdrawn with 4069 and 4053, the 03:37 Trafford Park to Dollands Moor working, being the only regular Channel Tunnel trains running on the WCML north of Rugby.



Early in 1999 EWS had introduced a dedicated container train from Ditton to Immingham Dock with various chemical traffics, produced by Associated Octel at Ellesmere Port and ICI at Runcorn, anticipated as its base loads. Originating from the recently opened O'Connor terminal at Ditton, near Widnes, the eastbound service is seen heading through Manchester Victoria behind Class 56 No. 56110 on 31st March 1999. On this occasion the train consisted of three Megafret twin wagon, TOPS code IKA, loaded with a range of different tanktainers belonging to Eurovos, Octel, and Suttons.



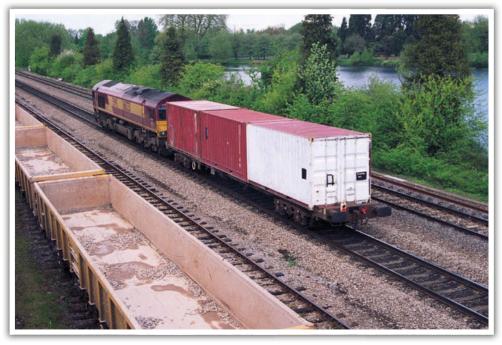
Unfortunately loadings on 4Z55, the 09:07 Ditton to Immingham, proved disappointing and it would be withdrawn after less than six months. Typical of the sparse traffic the train handled during its final weeks, Class 66 No. 66074 had just one Megafret in tow when recorded heading past the remains of the old platforms at the long closed Manchester Exchange station on 23rd July 1999.



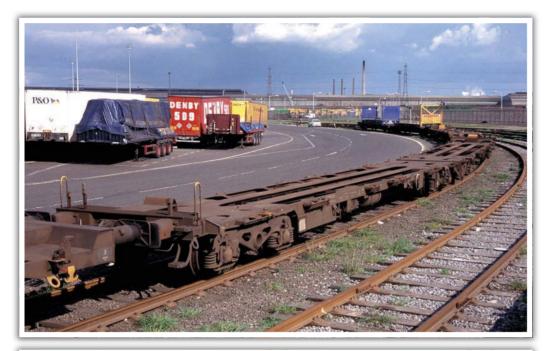
Another fairly short-lived working introduced in 1999 was an Ipswich to Liverpool service which originated at the small container terminal situated alongside Ipswich Griffen Wharf. After running to Harwich to recess and also collect additional traffic, it then continued later in the day, via Warrington Arpley and Ditton, to terminate at Liverpool's Seaforth Dock. Amongst the different traffics handled were John West tinned produce, refrigerated foodstuffs, and bottled wine and spirits, but evidently the train was expensive to operate and it had disappeared from the freight timetable by 2001. Class 37 No. 37669 waits to leave Ipswich Griffen Wharf with 6A79, the 15.04 Ipswich West Bank to Harwich Parkeston Quay on 6th July 2000.



When first introduced in 2005 4A10, the 12:15 Trafford Park to Southampton, was booked for Class 92 haulage as far as Wembley with No. 92013 'Puccini' recorded heading the train through Deansgate on 28th November 2006.



During the 1990s the Ministry of Defence began making increased use of containers to carry military traffic and Class 66 No. 66233 had a single loaded KFA bogie flat wagon in tow when seen passing Oxford Hinksey with the daily Didcot to Bicester trip on 6th May 2005.



In addition to Channel Tunnel traffic the purpose-built Euro-Twin container flats could often be seen on other workings and, on 4th May 1998, FIA No. 31 70 4938 178-1 was one of several awaiting loading at Tees Dock prior to forming a service to Mossend.



Although EWS's Ditton to Immingham train was soon withdrawn, their services linking Ditton with Grain (Thamesport) and Southampton were more successful. These trains regularly included several of the company's FAA low-deck container flats such as No. 609069 seen at Crewe in the consist of 4Z55, the 08:07 Ditton to Thamesport, on 6th December 2003.



During 1999/2000 Thrall's York workshop built a fleet of 150 low-deck FKA twin flats for EWS. These were capable of accommodating high-cube boxes within the standard British W6 loading gauge and could subsequently be seen on almost all EWS intermodal services. FKA No. 81 70 4908 056-4 was marshalled in the consist of 4Z59, the 11:35 Warrington Dallam to Glasgow Shieldhall (Deanside Transit) when photographed at Warrington Arpley on 3rd June 2001. Only running for a couple of years the 'Dream Box' train conveyed Safeway products.



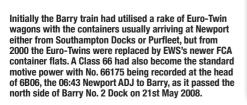
A wide range of container wagons appeared in EWS intermodal services with the rarest being Unilog's fleet of Belgian registered IJA single flats. These included No. 33 88 4910 107-0, which was photographed on 18 August 1998 when being shunted by Class 09 No. 09021 shortly after it had arrived at Hams Hall from Muizen in the consist of the 08.35 from Wembley.



In 1998 a new rail flow of containerised purified terephthalic acid (PTA) commenced running from Tees Dock to Workington where the PTA, imported from Rotterdam, was converted into polyethylene terephthalate (PET) by Eastman Chemicals for use in the manufacture of plastic bottles. Class 60 No. 60068 is pictured shunting empty IKA container flats at Workington Dock on 9th March 2005. In subsequent years Tees Dock was gradually developed into an important intermodal location with services also running to Avonmouth, Ditton, Mossend and Trafford Park.



A much more successful EWS intermodal working was the daily train from Newport to Barry which began running regularly in January 1999. The service conveyed predominantly 20ft box containers loaded with silicon metal for the Dow Corning chemical plant at Barry Docks and Class 37 No. 37146 and Class 09 No. 09001 are seen heading the inbound service around the 180° curve from Cadoxton onto the docks at Barry on 11 June 1999. After the container wagons had been berthed for unloading alongside No. 2 Dock the Class 09, which had been attached at Cadoxton, would be used to collect empty Polybulk wagons from Dow Corning's private siding, access to which was prohibited for larger locomotives due to a weak bridge just outside the chemical plant.

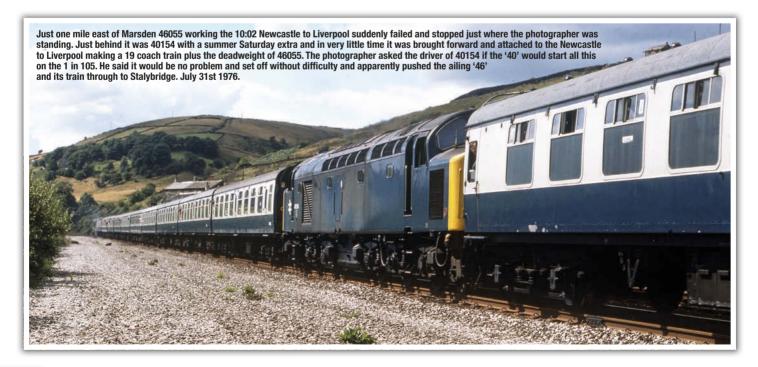






Trans Pennine Loco Hauled: Part 2 Marsden to Huddersfield

Gavin Morrison continues his journey eastwards along the Trans Pennine line between Manchester and Leeds. Having passed through Standedge Tunnel we are now in Yorkshire and begin the descent from Marsden along the Colne valley towards Huddersfield.



(LEFT) The 10:02 Newcastle to Liverpool with a Class 45 or 46 in charge is about to enter the east end of Standedge Tunnel near Marsden and is seen from the A62 main road. There are four parallel tunnels here. To the right of the train is the empty trackbed which led to the two original single track bores. The first of these was built in 1848 and was joined by a second in 1871. Both of these are now out of use. The third, a double track tunnel, was opened in 1894. Predating the railway tunnel was the canal tunnel of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Construction started in 1794 but it wasn't until 1811 that it opened, being the longest canal tunnel (at 5,451 yards) in Britain. To the left of the railway is the canal basin at the beginning of the tunnel where barges would have to wait before being 'legged' through the tunnel. The bridge over the railway is an aqueduct carrying the River Colne. February 26th 1977.



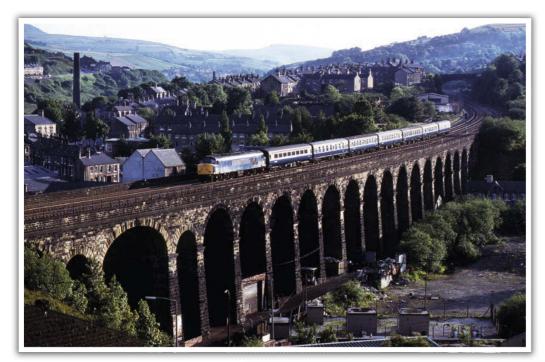
A five car Trans Pennine Class 124 unit leaves Standedge Tunnel and approaches the station on the 12:10 Liverpool to York. By this time the sixth vehicle, a trailer first buffet coach, had been removed from the sets. Note the snow covered freight loop in the foreground. February 26th 1977.



By this date the Class 25s were not common on the Standedge route on passenger workings but here 25196 makes a welcome appearance on a Saturdays only 09:00 Llandudno to Leeds seen heading down the bank towards Huddersfield passing Golcar. August 21st 1976.







45054 catches the last sun rays as it crosses Milnsbridge Viaduct heading for Huddersfield on the 18:05 Liverpool to Newcastle. June 14th 1984.



D200 (40122) is seen in its special green livery, but not as clean as usual, as it emerges from Gledholt Tunnel on the summer only 14:00 Scarborough to Liverpool. June 4th 1984.



Viewed from above the tunnel 47434 'Pride of Huddersfield' is in its namesake station and is about to leave with the 14:20 Newcastle to Liverpool. April 23rd 1990.

Letters



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CREWE IN THE BR BLUE ERA

I read with great interest Mike Hitchen's article about Crewe in the halcyon days of BR blue. He mentions the crowds that could be attracted to the station when a work's open day was taking place. I enclose a photograph taken on 22.09.79 exactly as Michael described showing the platforms absolutely packed with spotters or 'enthusiasts' as many of us preferred to refer to ourselves! Just look at the precarious seating with legs over the platform edges and not a railway official or BTP officer in sight! The almost completely hidden train in the background is the returning leg of The 'Crewe Invader' railtour running as 1Z85 heading back for Plymouth led by 50008 'Thunderer'.

The second photograph also shows something that Michael describes, namely the passage of an APT test train. Taken in the half-light on 11.02.79 a prototype HST power car that was part of set 252002 is seen at the rear of a working passing through one of Crewe's centre roads with an APT power car just in view. Out of sight on the front was 47199. Interestingly, I had also been visiting the works again on this bitterly cold February day having travelled up from Oxford on the Crewe Campaigner Relief railtour.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks to you for keeping Traction going during the past few months. Whilst I could not get out and buy my copy, something that I actually enjoy doing, I have had two excellent editions delivered by post. Well done again!





STEVE RANDALL BY EMAIL

I read with interest the article in TRACTION 258 about Crewe during the BR Blue era, which reminded me of my own occasional visits to this famous railway town especially at times of Works open days, one of which, I think, may have been the September 1975 event mentioned in the article. As with many other enthusiasts visiting Crewe, although there was plenty of activity to keep one occupied in the station area, it was quite frustrating to know that much of the freight would avoid the station by way of the Crewe Independent Lines (CIL), which were largely out of sight on the west side and situated in a cutting running at the back of the Diesel Depot. Certain freights, however, were booked through the station, especially those to and from the Stoke-on-Trent line, which had no direct access to the CIL, although such workings did have access to and from Crewe Basford Hall Yard at one point.

Mention was also made of an evening Class 40-hauled British Oxygen Company (BOC) train to the BOC plant at Ditton. This was probably the return empties from the BOC terminal at Wolverhampton (Monmore Green). This was reached via a spur that also gave access to Wolverhampton Steel Terminal. Although the spur was electrified (now de-wired), the BOC trains were shown in the working time table for diesel haulage and often produced a Class 40. I can only recall seeing once an electric-hauled BOC train traversing the Wolverhampton to Birmingham main line. This was near Oldbury station (now Sandwell & Dudley) back in the late 1970s or early 1980s. These would have been the empties returning to Ditton, which were required to run via Soho Road and Bescot. Another regular BOC train that would have passed through Crewe during the period covered by the said article would have been that to and from Wembley, which would have been electric-hauled and possibly routed via the CIL.

Although long out of print, I can thoroughly recommend the booklet 'Diesels Under The Wires Around Crewe' by Barry J. Nicolle (published 1979 by Peter Watts Publishing), which contains a splendid selection of monochrome images taken by the author depicting a nice variety of freight and passenger turns, and some interesting viewpoints of such workings including those elusive freights traversing the CIL.

DAVID J. HAYES, WEDNESBURY.

STAFFORD OVERNIGHT IN 1975

I have now read your full story about Stafford overnight in 1975 in TRACTION 259. Several points emerge from my perspective. Firstly, there was clearly a high utilisation of, in particular, Class 86. In 1975, all the first generation electrics were back in traffic but Classes 82-84 were largely confined to non-passenger duties. The use of a Class 47 on the Edinburgh to Bristol suggests a shortage of electric traction somewhere in the north. Secondly, the comparison between freight traffic then and now is most marked. There was also no 'white van man' parcel delivery activity then. Thirdly, mindful that, northbound, the sleeper to Liverpool and Manchester split at Stafford, the up workings in 1974 ran as separate trains. Finally, the failure of 50012 to return with empties was curious because 12 hours should have been long enough to make the round trip. 50041's whereabouts before collecting the loaded MGR would be interesting to know, but we never will. You must, indeed, have been pretty shattered at the end of the night. It is a wonder you did not fall asleep and overshoot Crewe on the return.

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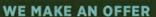


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