

BR/ELECTRO-MOTIVE DIESEL CLASS 66 LOCOMOTIVE

1:76.2 SCALE/00 GAUGE **DUE IN STOCK Q1 2024**

Both DC silent (DCC ready) and DCC sound versions are available

for all our locomotives.

DC/DCC READY £169.99 DCC SOUND £259.99





accurascale

Scan the QR Code or visit: www.accurascale.com to view the full range of Class 66 locomotives





All models shown are pre-production samples and are subject to refinement and alteration



SHED HEAVEN!

Taking on the Hattons Originals Award Winning Class 66 'Sheds' gave us an excellent platform to build the ultimate Class 66 in 4mm/00. Our first run consists of six different liveries and numbers whilst updating the tooling in line with the rest of our range. These models will cover all the major and some of the more subtle variations of the class depicting their successful 25 year career.







All Class 66 models feature

- High level of detail
- Die-cast chassis
- Five-pole motor with twin flywheels
- DCC ready & DCC sound (ESU loksound v5) options
- Details specific to individual prototypes
- High fidelity metal and plastic parts
- Rotating axle boxes
- Helical gears for maximum performance

- Comprehensive lighting functions
- Enhancing the model with redesigned axle boxes for the smoothest running
- Easier decoder access with a lift off roof section upgrading the PCB to eliminate wiring
- · Revised lighting to give access to day, night and yard mode under DCC
- Hall sensors added to DCC sound models
- Cab access step and handrails have been moved from body mount to chassis mount to allow for breakage free access to chassis
- Cab Front Handrails now have the option of 5 point or 7 point mounting with correct round profile handrail mounts
- And other typical Accurascale features.

www.accurascale.com

SCOUNT 'O' **GAUGE**

TOWER BRASS LOCOMOTIVES			
R.T.R in unpainted brass/factory painted			
GWR/BR Railcar 19-33	£550.00		
GWR/BR Parcels Railcar No.34	£550.00		
GWR 1361 Early black chassis	£525.00		
GWR/BR 1361 Late black chassis	£525.00		
Y/LMS/BR Pun black	£450.00		

LNER/BR J39 0-6-0 black... GWB/BB 8750 Pannier black chassis £525 00 FULLY FINISHED R-T-R LOCOS

L&Y/LMS/BR Pug 0-4-0T	
GWR/BR 1361 0-6-0ST	from £695.00
GWR/BR 8750 Pannier tank	from £695.00
GWR/BR Razor Edge railcar	£835.00
GWR/BR Parcels railcar	£810.00
LNER/BR J39 0-6-0	£950.00

GLADIATOR LOCO KITS

GL1 BR D10/11 4-4-0	.£400.00
GL14 LNER / BR Q4 TINY 0-8-0	.£410.00
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GL28 LMS/BR 2P 4-4-0	.£380.00
GL36 LBSC/SR/BR H2 ATLANTIC	
GL44 LNWR/LMS /BR COAL TANK 0-6-2	.£320.00
GL50 LNER/BR 2-8-8-2 GARRATT	
GL57 LNER / BR L1 2-6-4	.£380.00
GL58 LNER / BR B1 4-6-0	
GL59 LNER / BR K1 2-6-0	
GTR62 SR/BR Urie King Arthur	
GL70 SR / BR SCH00LS 4-4-0	
FT9 NER/LNER/BR G6/BTP 0-4-4T	.£275.00
TOWER COLLECTION (D.J.H) BEGINNI	ERS KITS

Includes wheels, gears and moto

TC1 Class 02 0-4-0 Diesel Shunter.......£250.00 TC3 Andrew Barclay 0-4-0 Steam Shunter£280.00 TOWER COLLECTION LOCO KITS

Require wheels, gears and motor

D THI OCO KITS	
TC14 LMS/BR Stainer 8F 2-8-0	£695.00
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TC5 LMS/BR de-streamlined Duchess.	£695.00
TC4 LMS/BR non streamlined Duchess	£695.00
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K300 B.R Standard 84xx 2-6-2T ... £465.23 K301 B.R Standard 2MT 2-6-0 ... £532.87 K302 LMS/B.R Natt 2-6-2T ... £465.23 K303 LMS/BR Fairburn 2-6-4 T ... £483.89 K310A LNER/BR A3 with Corridor tender. £764.89 K317B BR Britannia with BR1/1A tender..£764.89 K320 LMS / BR 2P/ 2F/ 2MT 2-6-0 £532.87 K325 BR Standard Class 5 4-6-0 £764 89 K345 NEW LNER/BR Thompson A2/1 ..£764.89 K346 NER / LNER D1 Class H1 4-4-4T...£524.70 K348 LNER/BR Class 'A8' 4-6-2T £524.70

K349 NER/ NE/LNER/BR D20 4-4-0	£630.7
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LK710 Signal Box Interior Kit	£28.9
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LK742 GWR spear fencing ramps	£14.9
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7066 B.R. Insulated Van	
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7070 B.R 12 ton Palvan .

7053 LNER/BR 20T Brake Van

7CO21P SR/BR Bogie Van ..

7C022 SR/BR 4 wheel BY ..

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£41.50

..£53.00

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DAPOL (EX LIONHEART) PANNIERS 64XX and 74XX G.W.R or B.R List Price £399.00 OUR PRICE £340.00 Sound Fitted RRP £550.00 OUR PRICE £467.50

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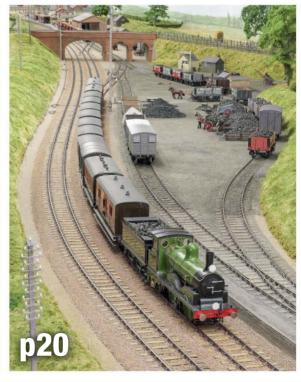
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p20 Semley (P4) The London & South Western Railway in its zenith p36 Lockdown Fen (OO) A scenic tribute to the Wisbech and Upwell Line p74 Braughing & Standon (N) This first-time layout builder leaves us stunned with the final result

p86 Road Runner (G-9) This playful scene takes us back to our childhood









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- p50 How to model the perfect river scene
- p54 Refurbish a secondhand station - it's easier than you think

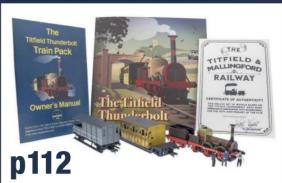


- p58 Create authentic-looking buildings on your layout in just 11 steps
- **p61** Develop parts for your models using a 3D printer - we show you how



- p62 How to detail the new Hornby P2
- **p66** Fatten up a low-relief chapel in N
- **p68** Modelling a winter scene - different effects explored

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p107 EFE Rail 'Clay Tiger'

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p114 Rapido LMS 5-plank open

p115 EFE Rail Hunslet/J94



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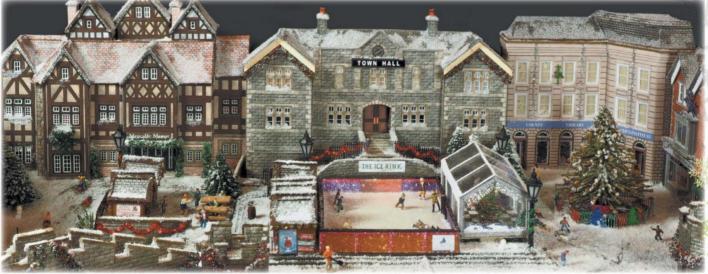
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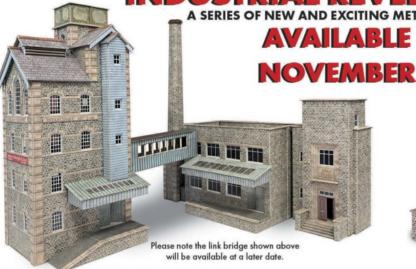
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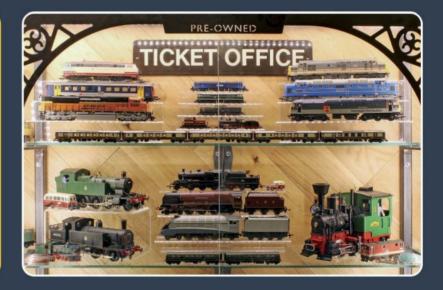
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Class 43xx Mogul 2-6-0 Due: Q4 2023 - Q1 2024 Price: from £154.18 Digital: 18-pin







Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST Due: Q2 2024 Price: £85 Digital: 6-pin SECR P Class 0-6-0T Due: Q2 2024 Price: E85 Digital 6 pin



NER Class Y7 0-4-0T Due: TBC 2024 Price: from £123.20 Digital: 18-pin



Metropolitan E Clas Due: Early 2024 Price: from £153 Digital: 18-pin LBSCR F1 0-6-0T Due: TBC 2024 Price: from £140.21 Digital: 18-pin



Manning Wardle 'L' 0-6-0T Due: TBC 2024 Price: TBC Digital: 18-pin

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Due: TBC 2024 Price: from £186.96

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00 Gauge Diesel & Electrics



Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £169.99 Digital: 21-pin



Class 50 Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £169.99 Digital: 21-pin Class 66 Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £169.99 Digital: 21-pin



Class 59 (New Batch)
MRIDue: Q1 2024
Price: from £152.96
Digital: 21-pin



Class 68 (New Batch) Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £153 Digital: 21-pin



Class 02 Shunter Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £143.65 Digital: 18-pin



Class 26/1 Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £177.65 Digital: 21-pin Class 47 Due: Nov 2023 Price: from £212.46 Digital: 21-pin



Class 57 (Upda Due: Dec 2023 Price: from £160.65 Digital: 21-pin Clase 86/2 Class 86/2 Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £2 Digital: 21-pin



00 Gauge Multiple Units





W&M 4-wheel Railbu Due: Oct 2023 Price: from £159.15 Digital: 21-pin



GWR AEC Parcels Railcar Due: Sep/ Oct 2023 Price: from £198.90 Digital: 21-pin

Class 104 DMU Due: Q2 2024 Price: from £330.65 Digital: 21 pin



Class 423 4-VFP FMU Due: Q4 2023/ Q1 Price: £326 69 Digital: 21-pin

Class 755 FLIRT BIMU Due: 02 2024 Price: £326.69 Digital: 21-pin

00 Gauge Coaches & Wagons



rascale BR Mk1 Suburbans Due: Q4 2023 Price: £64.95 Digital: N/A BR Mk2B & Mk2Cs



NER 20t Hop Due: Q1 2024 Price: £84.95 (3pk) Digital: N/A





14 ton Air Ministry Tanks Due: Q4 2023 Price: £32 13 each Digital: N/A



Price: from £46.75 Digital: 6-pin (Taillamps)

GWR Toplight City Coacl Due: Q4 2023 Price: £55.08 each Digital: 6-pin





ZZA Beilhack Snowploughs Due: Q2 2024 Price: £70 (2-pack) Digital: N/A 50t Warwell Wa Due: Q2 2024



sels 4 & 6 Wh Due: Q4 2023 - 2024 Price: from £33 each Digital: 18-pin



Wisbech & Up Due: Q4 2023 Price: £63.71 Digital: N/A

GWR B-Set Coaches Due: Q4 2023 Price: £144.45 (2pk) Digital: N/A



Price: £28.01 each Digital: N/A GWR Mink A Vans Due: Q1 2024 Price: £28.01 Price: £28.01 each Digital: N/A

25t Lowmac Well Wa Due: TBC 2024 Price: £33.95 each Digital: N/A

N Gauge Steam Locos



LMS Class 2MT 2-6-2T Due: Q2 2024 Price: from £93.50 Digital: PCB Swap require



GWR 63xx Mogul 2-6-0 Due: Q4 2024 Price: from £156.06 Digital: 18-pin LNER Class B17 4-6-0



Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £128.52 Digital: 6-pin SRI inht Pacific 4-6-2



Due: Q4 2024 Price: from £189.98 Digital: 18-pin ILNER Class A1/ A3 4-6-2 04 202



Price: from £153 Digital: 18-pin

LNER Class A4 4-6-2 Due: Q4 2024 Price: from £153 Digital: 6-pin

N Gauge Diesel & Electrics



Class 33 Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £133.11 Digital: 18-pin



Class 43 HST (Updated) Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £156.06 Digital: 18-pin Class 56 (Retooled Body) Due: Q3/ Q4 2024 Price: from £133.11 Digital: 18-pin



Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £146.88 Digital: 18-pin Class 66 (New Tool) Due: 02 2024 Price: from £146.88 Digital: 18-pin



Due: 04 2023 Price: from £110.16 Digital: 18-pin



Class 87 Due: Q3 2024 Price: from £131.75 Digital: 18-pin



Class 44, 45 & 46 Peak Due: TBC Price: TBC Digital: 18-pin

N Gauge Multiple Units



Class 156 Super Spr Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £146.88 Digital: 18-pin



Class 221 Sup Due: Q1 2024 Price: £213.78 Digital: 6-pin

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Due: TBC 2024 Price: £84.95 Digital: N/A OAA Open Wagons Due: TBC 2024 Price: £59.45 each



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O Gauge Steam Locos



Class J94 Austerity 0 Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £229.50 Digital: 21-pin



BR Standard 3MT 2-6-2T Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £527.85 Digital: 21-pin



GWR Class 55xx 2-6-2T Due: TBC 2024 Price: from £435.48 Digital: 21-pin

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Ruston 48DS Shunter Due: Q3 2024 Price: £169.15 Digital: 18-pin



Class 02 Shunte Price: from £330.65 Class 20 Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £543.15



Digital: Screw terminals Class 37/0 Due: Feb 2024 Price: from £568.65 Digital: ESU XL



Class 45 Peak Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £568.65 Digital: ESU XL Class 55 Deltic Due: Dec 2023 Price: from £619.65 Digital: ESU XL

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Due: Q4 2023 Price: from £594,15 Digital: ESU L



Class 153 DMU Due: Q2 2024 Price: from £339.15 Digital: 21-pin

O Gauge Coaches & Wagons

Due: Q4 2023 Price: £78.03 each Digital: N/A



14t Slope Sided Ope Due: Q4 2023 Price: £51 each Digital: N/A 24t Iron Ore Hopper Due: Q4 2023 Price: £59.50 each Digital: N/A **GWR Toad Brake Van**



Digital: N/A HIA Aggregate Hopp Due: Q4 2023



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Due: Q1 2024 Price: from £254.15 Digital: N/A SR CCT/ PMV Vans Due: TBC 2024 Price: from £211.65 Digital: N/A



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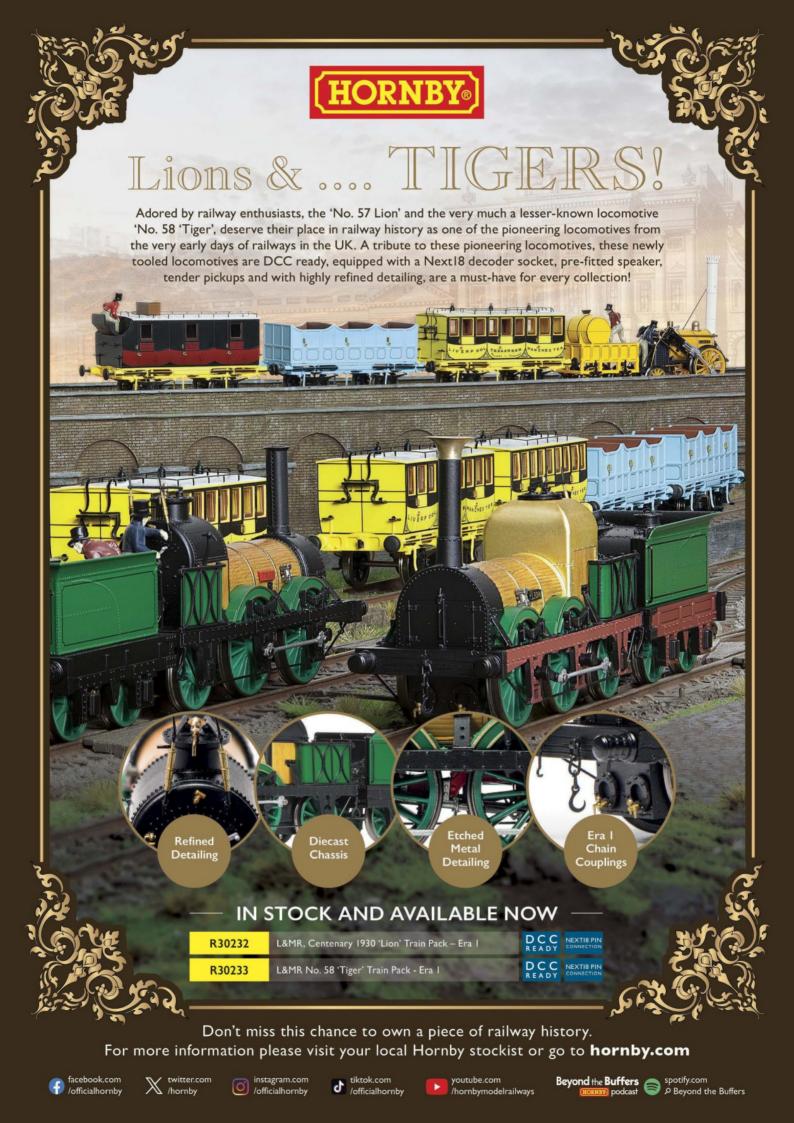


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HORNBY OO

R3R36 BB Standard 2MT 2-6-0 Sta 78047 BR Black motive No. 78047 BR Black motive No. 78010 BR Black R3838 BR Standard 2MT 2-6-0 Steam Local





R30132 Class 9F 2-10-0 Steam Locomotive No. 92002 BR Black R30133 Class 9F 2-10-0 Steam Locomotive No. 92097 BR Black £227.99



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904005 BR 15xx Pannier Tank 1501 Lined Black, Early Crest (as preserved)	2134.99
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904006 BR 15xx Pannier Tank 1509 NCB Maroon	£134	.9
904501 BR 15xx Pannier Tank 1506 Unlined Black No CrestDCC Sound	2219	99
904502 BR 15xx Pannier Tank 1500 Black Early CrestDCC Sound	£219	.99
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ARRIVAL

DAPOL N

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2F-060-016 Grampus Wagor	No. I	DB984363 B	R Olive Green	£19.39
2F-060-017 Grampus Wagor	No. I	DB985730 BI	R Indian Red	£19.39
2F-060-018 Grampus Wagor	No. I	DB990518 BI	R Dutch Civil Engineers	£19.39



2F-060-019 Gramous Wagon No. DB991673 BB Dutch Civil Engineers 2F-060-020 Grampus Wagon No. DB991471 BR Dutch Civil Engineer

GRAHAM FARISH N



372-628ASF LMS Ivatt 2MT Steam No. 46447 BR Lined Black... DCC Sound \$225.99 373-629E BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110548 BR Railfreight Red & Grey with low ends. 221.99 373-629E BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110555 BR Railfreight Red & Grey with low ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110055 BR Railfreight Rown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110009 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110009 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110009 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110009 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 110009 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) whow ends. 221.99 373-629B BR OBA Open Wagon No. 1100004 BR Freight Brown (Railfreight) who we do not compare the compared to the compa 374-089 BR Mk1 BCK Brake Composite Corridor Coach DB975280 Network Rail Yellow. £40.99 374-691 BR Mk2F BSO Brake Second Open Coach No. 9527 ScotRail Saltire.



374-763 BR MkZF FO First Open Coach No. 3403 BR InterCity Swallow. .£19.99 374-860 LNER Thompson Full Brake Coach No. £15E LNER Teak Effect. C41 99



374-861 LNER	Thompson Full E	Brake Coach No.	. E13E BR Crimson &	Cream£41.99
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RT-PFA002-E PI	FA 2 Axle	Container Fla	at Triple Pac	k - British Fu	rels Red£82.50



RT-PFA003-N	PFA 2 Axle	Container	Flat Triple	Pack - DF	RS LLNW		£82.50
RT-PFA003-O	PFA 2 Axie	Container	Flat Triple	Pack - Di	RS LLNW		.£82.50
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DAPOL O

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EDWARDIAN CHARM

On the hunt for a new layout project, Martin Finney was surprised to find everything he needed for inspiration on his doorstep.

Words: Martin Finney Photography: Jamie Warne

n early May 1998, I was ready for a new project. At the time, I lived in Shaftesbury, and so it was, I set out with my Labrador, George, for our midday walk. Without a great deal of forethought, I decided on a new walk around the remains of what was once Shaftesbury Station, situated some two miles north near the village of Semley.

The London & South Western Railway in the Edwardian period, when railways were at their zenith, had become my consuming modelling interest and I was looking for a station typical of many on a double track main line with a simple trackplan. After a circular walk using the bridges and surrounding fields, I was nosing around the closed King Settle pub when a policeman patrolling in his car stopped and asked me what I was doing. A truthful explanation of my interest in the railway had him quickly suggesting several people whom I should contact for information, including the Chairwoman of the local W.I.!

Was this the prototype for the project, sitting on my doorstep? I liked the sinuous way the track followed

contours with no straight sections, the conveniently situated over bridges which would disguise the ends of the model and, although the station had been closed since March 7th, 1966, I was struck by how many of the structures survived.

The early days

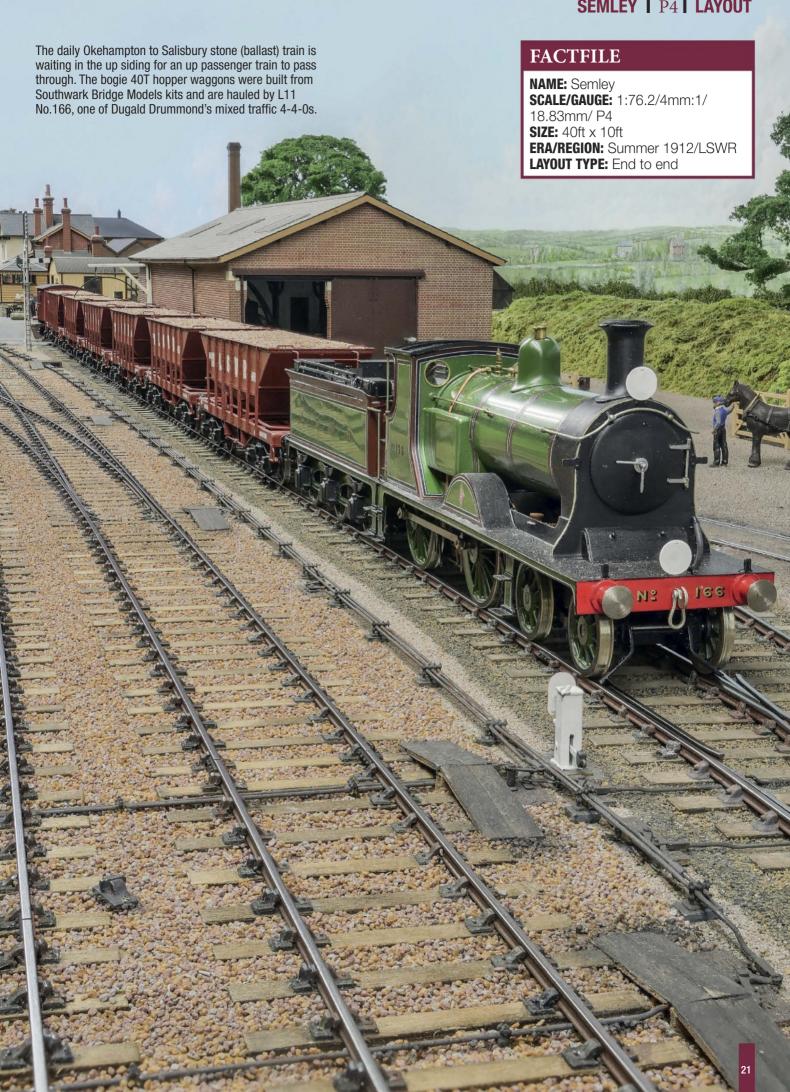
Within a week of initial research, I had decided on a model of Semley Station in August 1912, and my good friends Chris Wesson and Tom Mallard had agreed to bring their considerable skills to the project.

Research is an ongoing activity, but much happened in the first few heady months whilst the project was new. Apart from all the help received from the folk who now work and live at Semley Station, two particular events come to mind.

I contacted the Plans Arch at Waterloo and spoke to a helpful man who promised to look in the Semley folder. A day later, he called to tell me there were four photographs and 21 drawings. I agreed to buy the lot, and when they arrived, I was amazed to find the four

BELOW: After the tall up advanced starting signal No.11 is passed, the line starts the descent down the valley of the River Nadder at a gradient of 1 in 145. To create the illusion of the falling gradient, the coal yard sidings were built up on a gradient of 1 in 145. The road to Semley village emerges in the background, having passed the gableended village hall, and winds its way to the village common with the white-painted Benett Arms on the left and St. Leonard's Church on the right.





CC We have Mike's work as a memory of his talent, but how I wish we still had Mike instead. >>

photographs were full plate prints of 'official' pictures taken on March 10th, 1904. I have subsequently located four further views taken at the same time, the best published in the July 1904 edition of the Railway Magazine, and without the information they contain, a convincing model would have proved impossible. The drawings included a 1954 40ft to 1in plan and drawings of the bridges, but the majority were a complete set of drawings for the new signal box built in 1961!

Semley Station opened on May 2nd, 1859, and was the highest point on the Salisbury & Yeovil Railway. The facilities saw rapid expansion and, with the opening of a dairy in 1875, Semley became the first station in the country to have a wholesale milk depot to serve the London market.

Eric Smart started work at Semley Station in 1936 as a shunt horse lad and I was privileged to meet him to discuss his experiences. Semley was an awkward trackplan with all the sidings, bar one, on the up side, short shunting necks and the whole layout on a gradient falling towards Gillingham. His recollections of the working of traffic, particularly goods trains, have been invaluable in attempting to accurately represent the movement of trains. Unfortunately, fully replicating the scene requires a working model of Eric and his horse Nobby!

Building begins

I started planning the model by scanning the 1954 plan. I then imported the scans into my usual CAD package. It was then backdated using a small copy of an LSWR 40ft to 1in plan circa.1915, obtained from the NRM. This file was used to design the whole model, including the baseboards, track, point and signal mechanisms and later the room to house 'Semley'. The model was to be of the approximately half a mile of railway between the occupation bridge No. 296 at the eastern end and the three-arch viaduct, No. 298. carrying the main Shaftesbury to Warminster Road over the line at the western end. This meant the scenic part of the model would be some 35ft long and the overall model would need a space of 40ft by 10 feet.

RIGHT: This view down Station Road towards the Station has the Railway Hotel and Stables in the foreground, followed by the Dairy manager's house and the Dairy. A down express (hauled by Drummond D15 4-4-0 No. 465) passes through and starts the 1 in 105 dash down to Gillingham.







Without any serious consideration of where the model would be erected, apart from the possibility of taking it to exhibitions, the 'gang of three' started work in my garage on the construction of the first of the 17 baseboards. The problem of accommodation was soon solved when I moved later in 1998 to a house near Stalbridge, and by summer 1999, 'Semley' had the luxury of a purpose-built room.

Having completed the first six boards, which contain the majority of the scenic part of the model, we could move on to the construction of the track. One circa 1912 photograph shows new ballast, suggesting that the running lines at Semley may have been re-laid with the 1902 design of permanent way using 45-foot-long rail and flexible switches. The sidings were using the earlier 1891 design using 30-foot panels and heeled switches. Construction was very conventional, using the Brook-Smith method of ply sleepers with brass rivets and steel rail on templates drawn using information obtained from the South Western Circle and Alan Blackburn. Alan was particularly helpful in resolving the geometry of the unusual double slip, which has staggered switches. The cosmetic detailing of the track – chairs, ballasting, fish plates, stretcher bars and point rodding has taken many hours to complete. The chairs are white metal castings, each chair in two halves glued in place with super glue: in excess of 10,000 pieces!

The points and signals are mechanically-operated using a system of rods and cranks under the baseboard. The benefit of having built the model with separate baseboards became apparent as we spent much of the time working with the boards upside down!

The signal box frame is a 1/12th scale model of the Stevens frame installed in Semley box, utilising castings from Scale Signal Supply. The frame is fully interlocked by a scratch-built locking frame designed by Peter Squibb. On a shelf attached above the frame sit models of the Preece block instruments and bells, which for reasons of practicality and the tone of the bells, are built to 1/3rd scale.

Conventional control

As the beginnings of this project go back some 20 years to when the first locos were built, it is very much pre-DCC. All track power is applied through a system of relays and CMOS logic chips designed and built by Chris. The input to this system comes from reed switches sensing the position of the under board point and signal operating rods and the position of the signal box block instruments. This means that the operator's 'control panel' is simply the model of Semley box lever frame and instruments, with no switches for track power required, giving the signalman the same role as 100 years ago.

ABOVE: Looking east through the station with the footbridge, Bridge 297A, which was installed in 1888, prominent. The small building on the up platform is the porters' room. The dock on the left was used primarily for milk traffic but also handled horse box traffic. Having dropped off the Semley milk vans in the down siding, Drummond L12 4-4-0 No. 432 waits at the down Starting signal No.3 with the 7.05 Waterloo to Yeovil Town Milk empties.



To communicate with Semley box, the next boxes up and down the line at Tisbury and Gillingham are also required. These boxes only have the half that communicates with 'Semley' modelled and provide an opportunity for less experienced signalmen to begin their training!

Train driving is a separate job, the up and down drivers usually being situated at the front of the model. To complete the operating roster requires a shunter at 'Semley' and ideally two people to graft in the fiddle yards. For controlling the trains we use the PICtrollers produced by Malcolm Smith.

Tricky structures

Among the information I acquired from the Waterloo Plans Arch were drawings of bridges 296 and 298. Unfortunately, there was no drawing of bridge 297 in the Semley folder so Chris, Tom and I spent an enjoyable Sunday morning measuring and photographing the structure. I was then able to make drawings of all three bridges and build the models.

All the other buildings and structures have been built by my good friend Mike Jolly. Mike, who sadly passed away in December 2007, was a supremely gifted modeller and was our guru for all things relating to buildings and scenery. We have Mike's work as a memory of his talent, but how I wish we still had Mike instead. Mike and I spent many sessions at Semley surveying and photographing the buildings for me to produce drawings and Mike to work his magic and produce his stunning models.

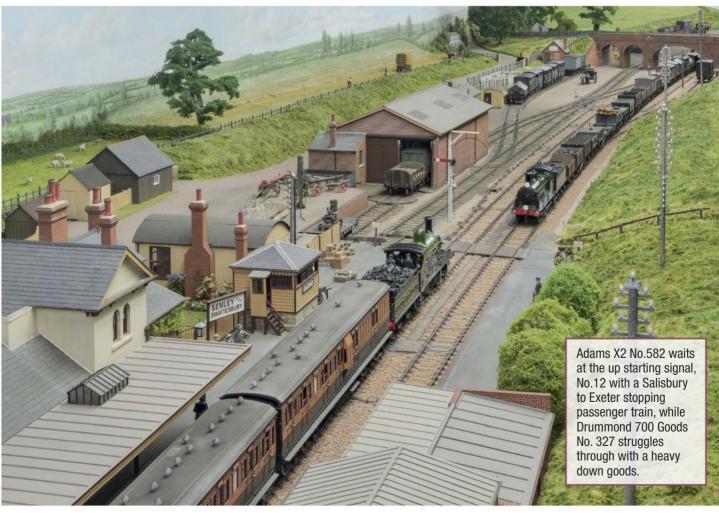




ABOVE: Drummond L12
4-4-0 No. 432 arrives at
the down platform with
the 7.01 am Waterloo
to Yeovil Town Milk
empties. This train
carried passengers
between Salisbury
and Yeovil only in the
first two carriages,
which had been
added at Salisbury.

LEFT: This view shows the timber extension to the up platform and the Salisbury, Semley & Gillingham Dairies factory with its chimney, where the received milk was pasteurised, cooled and then sent to London. The churns were manhandled across Station Road, through the gate, down the ramp and onto the dock before being loaded into the waiting milk vans. The factory also made cheese, the double-gable building to the right being the store where the cheese was matured.









CWell over half the total time for a project such as this is spent on the most interesting and enjoyable activity for me; building the trains. >>

More recently, I have received help from Paul Brambrick who was able to use his skills to maximum effect to create a wonderful representation of the landscape around and beyond the station. The technical aspects of his methods are explained in his book Creating a Backscene.

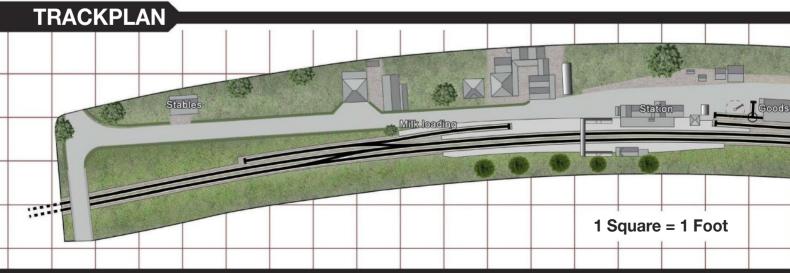
It was after reading the first of Gordon Gravett's inspiring books on the modelling of trees that I contacted him to ask whether he was prepared to make trees for 'Semley'. Fortunately, he agreed and the result is some beautiful and characterful models.

Well over half the total time for a project such as this is spent on the most interesting and enjoyable activity for me; building the trains. The locomotives of William Adams and particularly Dugald Drummond make wonderfully challenging and attractive models and are a mixture of kit-built and scratch-built.

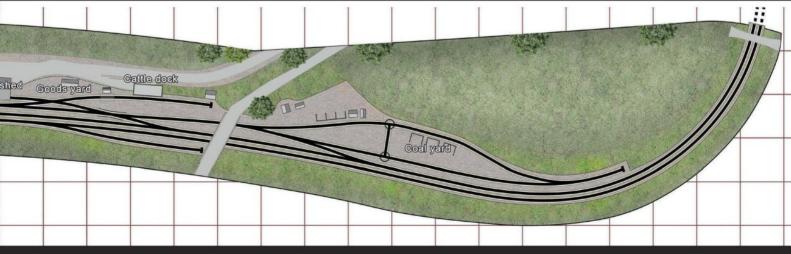
By 1912, traffic on the LWSR route to the west was booming, with many of the heavy through corridor expresses in the hands of Drummond's much-maligned 4-6-0s. I have built a model of T14 class No. 462 and I still hope to make models of each of the F13, G14 and P14 classes in due course. A real luxury for us was to have Chris apply his skills with an airbrush and lining pen to reproduce the magnificent Drummond liveries.

RIGHT: The milk factory can be seen over the station roofs as the 1.32pm Templecombe to Bulford train arrives on time at 1.53pm behind Adams X2 No.582. The Stationmaster's garden on the far side of Station Road looks well-tended and productive.









COMMUNITY

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It's crazy to think we are already at the December issue – those 13 issues went past in a blur. It has been a busy year at BRM headquarters, and we hope you are all enjoying the design changes we have made over the past few months, BRM is looking better than ever! The feedback so far has been great, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been emailing in over recent weeks to tell us how much they are enjoying the magazine.

Although there are still a few weeks before we need to worry about getting the Christmas Tree out, shopping for gifts is well and truly underway – especially if you have children – well, that and carving out pumpkins.

With the show season back in full swing, what better way to find those ideal gifts for loved ones than attending an exhibition? And the good news is that there are some key exhibitions taking place in November,

including Warley, which will be the ideal place to pick up some bargains. We will be attending Warley too and will have a great subscription offer (a great gift idea, surely!), plus exciting competitions happening on the stand – come and say hello.

Speaking of shows, we've just opened ticket sales for our Doncaster show (The Festival of British Railway Modelling), which is back at the Doncaster Racecourse this February. I'm completely biased, of course, but it's one of my favourite shows in the calendar, and (spoiler alert) we have some fantastic layouts attending this year, including some making their first outing on the exhibition circuit – you don't want to miss it! Tickets can be booked online now at www.world-of-railways.co.uk/ shows - we will hopefully see you there!

Happy Modelling! Debbie Wood

WEEKEND PLANS...

Alsager Crewe Exhibition

Back again for 2023, the Alsager Railway Association's popular event will showcase around 20 layouts of different gauges and will be held at the Legends Conference Centre, Bentley Motors Ltd, in Crewe. Tickets cost £9 for adults, with children being free with an accompanying adult. Doors will open at 10am both days, closing at 5pm on the Saturday and 4:30pm on the Sunday. DATE: November 11-12, 2023

Warley National 2023

Once again, the NEC Birmingham plays host to one of the biggest model railway exhibitions of the year. Visitors can expect a large selection of layouts and trade stands on display, plus a wide selection of demonstrators and society stands.

DATE: November 25-26, 2023

Maidstone & Mid-Kent Railway Exhibition

Railway modellers in the South rejoice, the two-day Maidstone & Mid-Kent Railway Exhibition is set to take place this December – the perfect way to recharge after the Christmas festivities. Held at the Lockmeadow Market Hall in Maidstone, doors are open from 10am until 4pm both days. DATE: December 29-30, 2023

Longfield Model Railway Exhibition

One of the first shows of 2024, The Erith Model Railway Society will be hosting its annual exhibition at The Longfield Academy in Longfield, Kent. A wide selection of layouts, traders and society stands are planned, in a variety of gauges.

DATE: January 27-28, 2024

The Festival of British Railway Modelling

Once again to be held at the Doncaster Racecourse, visitors can expect 30 fantastic layouts in N, OO, EM, O, P4, OO9, and more, catering to all tastes. And that's not all, there will be an abundance of leading retailers, plus specialist manufacturers and traders showcasing harder-to-find products.

DATE: February 10-11, 2024

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I have in my collection six Dapol Class 73s and quite a few people (including myself) have running problems with these models over points and crossings. I've tried keeping the wheels and pickups clean and the track but still get cut-outs over the points, etc. My Class 73s are all fitted with 21-pin Lenz decoders and would to ask if there is any kind of "stay alive" that you might be able to recommend. If there is, do you connect them to the decoder or the printed circuit board?

Simon Brown

BRM: Some of the early Dapol Class 73 models have become known for some pickup issues. Before patching around the problem with a stay-alive, it's worth testing each of the models on the workbench with contact probes from a controller to each of the wheels to see if there's a more basic problem. If there are any problems, consult the instructions or ask the question on RMweb on how to adjust the pickups.

It's also worth learning how to use a multimeter to check that there are no track connectivity issues. Only if all of the above prove to be sound is it worth fitting any stay-alive capacitors. Again, the modellers on RMweb can give some advice based on their experiences.

MILESTONE FOR CHARITY

It is over nine years since the Famous Trains model railway first opened to the public in April 2014. In each of the years since then, this popular attraction in Markeaton Park, Derby, has received around 7,000 visitors (except for the Covid period). On Saturday 9th September, the charity was delighted to welcome its 60,000th visitor. Joe Masters arrived with a family group and was surprised to receive a certificate and a £40 voucher to spend in the Famous Trains Gift Shop. Joe told the volunteers at Famous Trains that he was building his own model railway at his home in Leicester. He would spend the vouchers in the Famous Trains shop on items that would add to his home model railway. At work, Joe is part of a team working on the full-size railway track on Network Rail. Railways are clearly in his blood!

The Famous Trains building is open to the public every Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11am to 4pm. Entrance costs for an adult are £3; a child is £1.50; and a family (up to two adults with children under 16) costs £6.



Joe (right) receiving his certificate from the Famous Trains model railway charity's chairman, Adrian Maynard. In the background is the charity's 00-scale model of Chinley station, part of the biggest 00 model railway in the East Midlands.



READER FEEDBACK

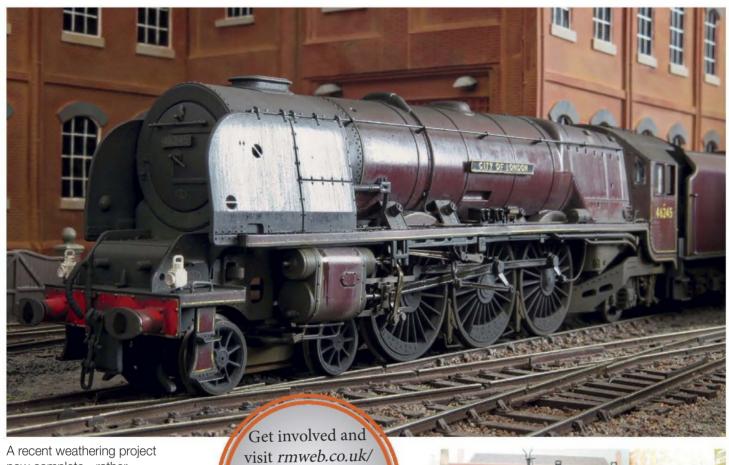
I have just received my subscription copy of the November BRM magazine. I have to ask the question, is it just a coincidence that on the cover under the Dream Big caption, there is a picture of B17 Leicester City. As an LCFC supporter, I recall we were all 'Dreaming Big' in the 2015-16 season with the impossible dream of LCFC winning the Premier League title. They did! Needless to say, this particular B17 takes regular turns on my GCR-based layout. I really like the "new look" magazine. Excellent.

Steve Borrill

BRM: Thank you for getting in touch and for the great feedback. We've put a lot of time and effort into the new-look issue, and we're glad you're enjoying it. In response to your question, pure coincidence I'm afraid. Although we all remember Leicester City's 2015-16 title-winning season – what a fantastic performance - our allegiances are actually elsewhere in the league.

COMMUNITY

Inspirational modelling with RMweb



now complete - rather pleased with this one! RMweb user: Boleyn Road topic/156891-showus-yours-realisticmodelling/ and post



As it's a bank holiday Old Ged is busy hoeing his prize-winning cabbages and cauliflowers. RMweb user: Mike_Walker



Shed staff hard at work. RMweb user: Gopher



Clun 1939. RMweb user: sixteen 12by 10s



BR(M) Pug in O gauge on my steam shed layout, 'Mission Road', having undergone some recent weathering. RMweb user: Kelvin B

The Lonesome Pine. BR Std 9F 2-10-0, No.92220 Evening Star fittingly heads the final 'Pines Express' over the Mendip Hills - September 8th, 1962.

RMweb user: SDJR7F88

TRENDING ON SOCIAL



Watch the trains go by on the fantastic 'Stanicliffe' In our latest video, the talented and well-regarded Roger Sunderland shows us around his new home layout, based on West Yorkshire.



Good news for OO9 fans! Bachmann has announced two new models of the Mainline Hunslet Locomotives Linda and Blanche.



Fans of Deltics rejoice! The new models by Heljan will soon be shipped to Europe and new details have been revealed



NOSTALGIA ALERT! We take a look at and listen to the DCC sound functions of the new Titfield Thunderbolt.

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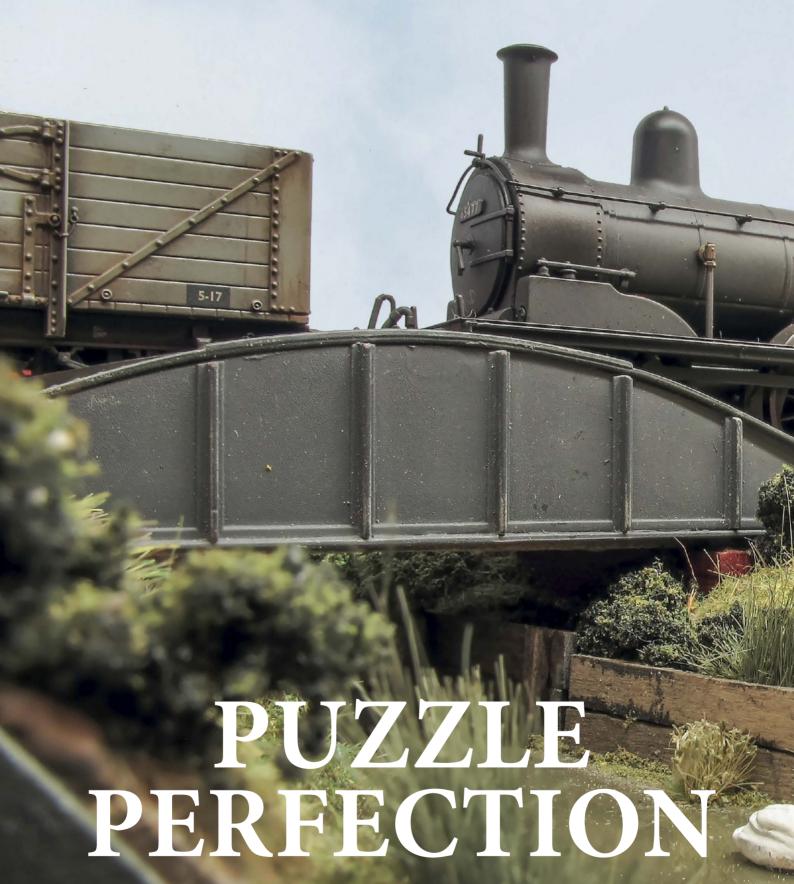
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www.world-of-railways.co.uk

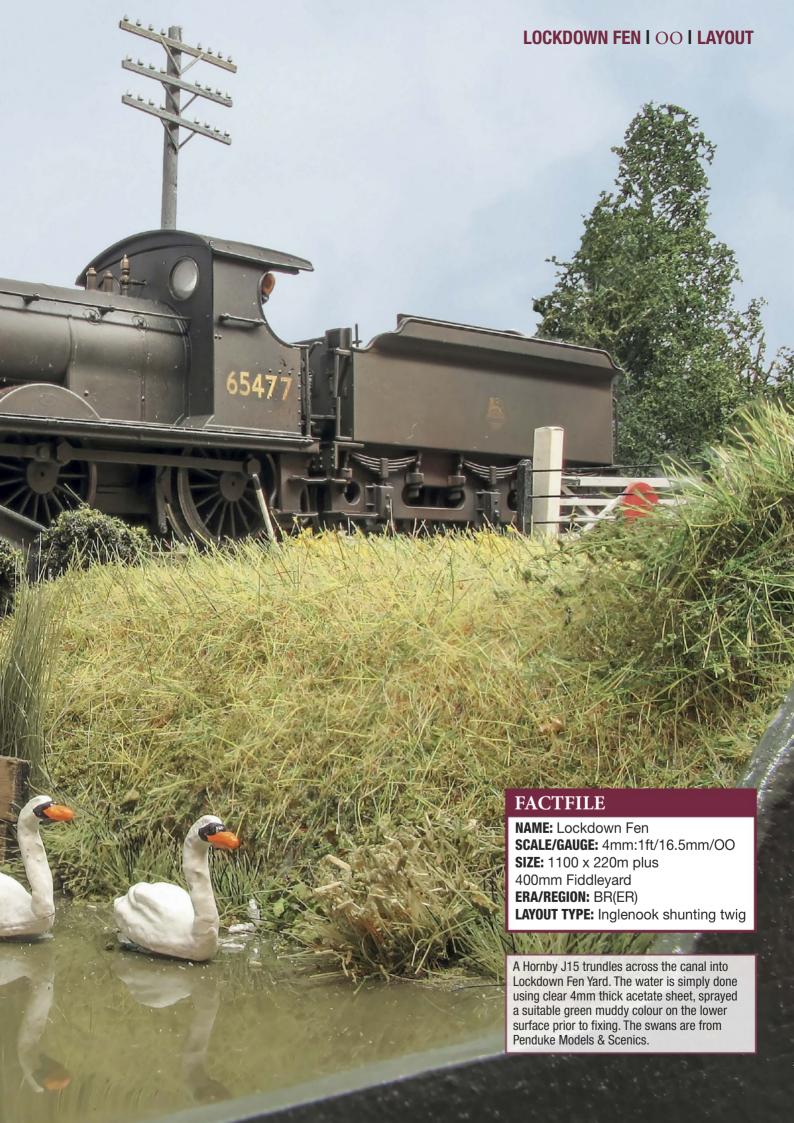


brm@warnersgroup.co.uk



The arrival of the J70 locomotive by Rapido Trains proved the deciding factor for Chris Hopper, whose tribute to the Wisbech and Upwell line delivers much in operational interest.

Words: Chris Hopper Photography: Phil Parker



LAYOUT I OO I LOCKDOWN FEN

hen the restrictions to our daily lives resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic took effect in early 2020, like many others, I had a lot of time on my hands at home and I decided to see what I could achieve with a new layout. In retrospect, it was a very good decision, and I was glad I had a creative and constructive hobby to fall back on after. The rather clichéd name of the layout was a working title that just stuck.

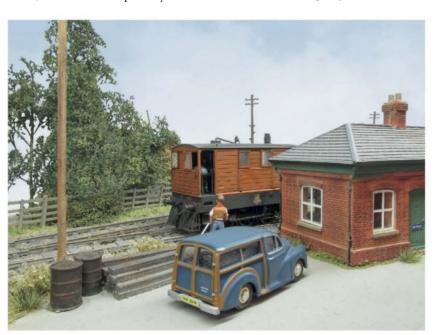
One of my favourite parts of the layout design and construction process is tracking down research resources and trying to identify and reproduce characteristic elements. I had time to spare and wanted to start building, but I still spent a lot of time pulling together ideas for the layout first. Although it is not in my normal geographical or historical areas of interest, the Wisbech and Upwell (W&U) line has always looked like an interesting modelling project, so, over time, I assembled a number of books about the line.

The production of the J70 "tram" locomotive by Rapido Trains was just too much of a temptation and, as well as the unusual motive power, the line had several signature features that would be interesting to try to reproduce on a model. However, the resulting layout would definitely be "inspired by" the W&U rather than trying to be a truly accurate re-creation, so other "plausible" motive power could be used, which would be helpful for operation and reliability, particularly at exhibitions.

Planning 'Lockdown Fen'

The trackplan was limited by the baseboard size and would just be a simple inglenook – not to everyone's taste I know - but it does provide a bit of operational interest, especially at exhibitions where the shunting "puzzle" does generally lead to engagement with those watching.

I had listed some scenic elements I wanted to include. Track in the roadway was one of them. Typically, my version is not accurate - the W&U line tended to run parallel to houses rather than emerge from between them, but I've been inspired by scenic features on



RIGHT: The J70 has a crew by Hardy's Hobbies. Many of the wagons on the layout have suitable loads secured as prototypically as is practical. The Lowfit is a kit from Red Panda.

BOTTOM LEFT:

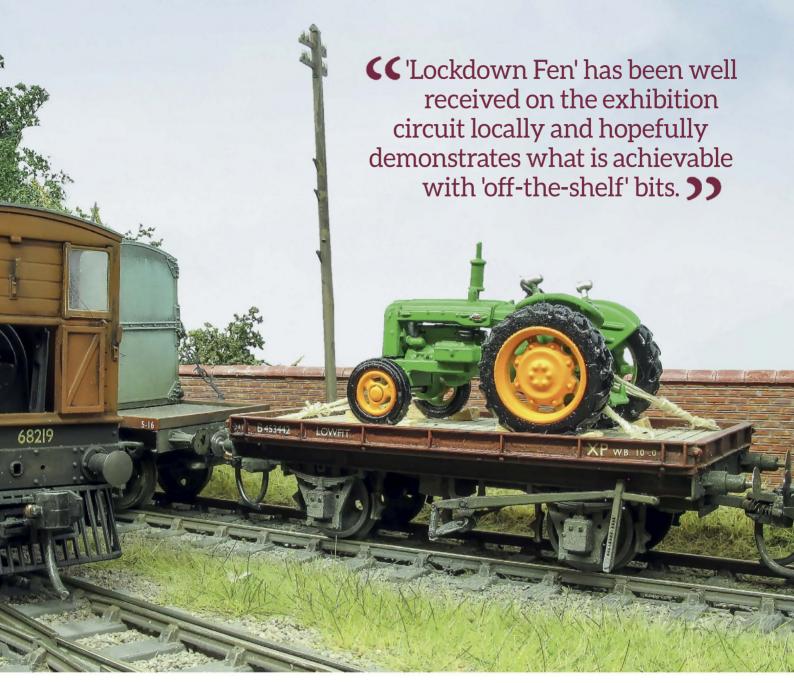
I have tried to use motor vehicles appropriate to the era. As with this Morris Traveller by Oxford Diecast, they are very gently weathered.



other layouts as well; David Taylor's 'Bridport Town' in O-16.5 is one of my favourite layouts and always provides inspiration.

I do enjoy small layout design and had seen a number of layouts constructed using Scale Model Scenery baseboards designed to fit in the 77-litre Really Useful Box Christmas Tree storage box. I used two boards (permanently joined) plus a smaller board to act as a separate shunting lead/fiddle yard. I already had the dimensions, so before I actually had the board kits, I roughed out some trackplans. Their dimensions established the siding lengths and overall geometry as well as setting the length of the single shunting lead, which disappears off-scene into the fiddle yard.

Rather than use the conventional left-hand/right-hand turnout combination associated with most 3/3/5 inglenook designs, I angled the trackplan across the boards slightly and used two right-hand turnouts. I think it gives a little more flow and space to the appearance of the track despite the tiny baseboards.





LEFT: A Bachmann J72 is shunting the yard. The 5-plank wagon with a roped load of timber is a Parkside kit. The scratch-built water tower is based on the one at Wisbech and is "selectively" compressed so as not to overpower the rest of the scenery.

LAYOUT I OO I LOCKDOWN FEN

I did spend a lot of time mocking up the layout on a spare piece of white melamine shelving marked with the dimensions of the layout, including trackplan, roads and yards, a canal and building footprints. I spent a bit of time at various stages placing rolling stock on the full-size mock-up to establish critical dimensions and clearances. During the track planning phase, I also experimented with below-board wiring runs and connectors, point motor location and the location of the NCE PCP panel on the fascia before construction. Space is very tight – especially around the canal area – and this was a worthwhile exercise.

Construction begins

The main boards are Scale Model Scenery (SMS BB021) made from 4mm MDF (Micro Layout Baseboard in a Box.) This particular version comes without built-in end boards as I find it easier to build the layout without these fixed in place – I made my own from 4mm birch plywood – complete with exit hole at the fiddle yard end - and fixed them in place at the end of the project. I also wanted a lighting fascia, which would project forward a short distance from the front of the layout. This was a separate piece made up of 3mm ply with LED strips (plus a strip of diffuser material), which plugs on top of the layout and stores with the layout when not in use.

The overall height of the backscene (as supplied) relative to the depth of the boards is a little bit "overpowering" in my opinion, so I removed about 40mm from the top during the build. This helps with storage in the RUB box as I raised the boards slightly at the bottom to give a little bit more clearance for point

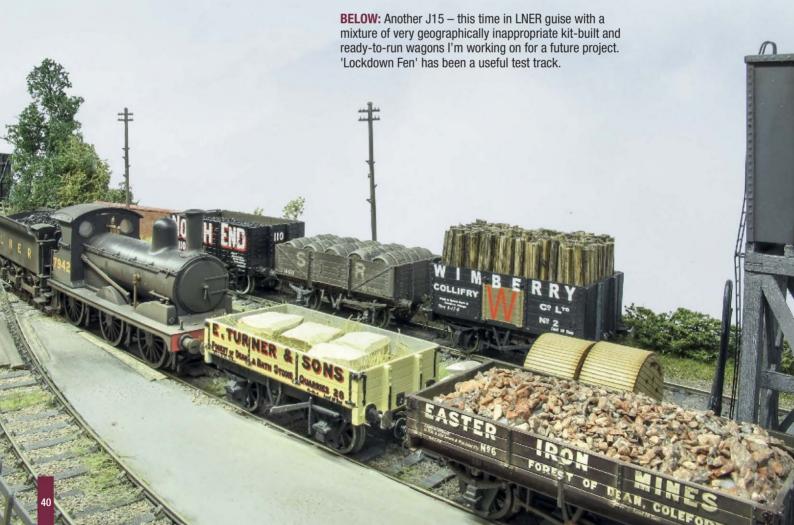
Rolling Stock

I have a collection of 4mm BR rolling stock suitable for the steam/ diesel transition era assembled over many years. Some of the stock was previously used on 'Pixash Lane' and 'Dock Street' - both now sold. 'Lockdown Fen' is set slightly earlier than my previous layouts, and so I did add to the collection with both RTR and kit-built wagons and vans as well as brake vans, which don't feature in the shunting puzzle but still remain a firm favourite wagon type for me. Stock is all weathered and is fitted with Kadee couplings. I know they can be a bit intrusive visibly, but I've used them for many years on my British models and previously on US HO models. I think they provide a decent "hands-off" option for operation and certainly add "playvalue". A magnet was installed in the track on the bridge where it can be nicely disguised and conveniently located for shunting. Kadees do have the advantage that when asked about them at exhibitions, I know that I can recommend them as "plug and play" option if NEM versions are substituted for tension-locks, although I do prefer to use the conventional "draft box" Kadees when I can and always on kit-built stock.

In terms of motive power, I have two J70s both fitted with Zimo DCC sound decoders by Digitrains. They have crews from Hardy's Hobbies specifically designed for these locomotives.

The Drewry diesel locomotive with the characteristic tram loco side-skirts and cowcatchers is a 3D-printed resin body by Sparkshort Custom Creations. I had a spare 03 chassis and was able to get a sound decoder re-blown with suitable sound by Digitrains. It was an interesting project, and I made a few mistakes along the way.

I can run the layout in pure 'Wisbech and Upwell' mode, but I do run other motive power, including a J15, J72 and Classes 08, 15 and 24 diesels, which are all just about plausible for ex-GER branch lines. All the locomotives are sound-fitted by Digitrains or myself with Zimo decoders (except the factory-fitted Sutton Loco Works Class 24), stayalives where possible, and are weathered by me.



LOCKDOWN FEN I OO I LAYOUT







motors and wiring. For this, I used some strip wood, which also helped keep everything rigid and took a bit of stress off the centre section between the two BB021 boards, which are permanently bolted together.

I used one of SMS's smaller boards for the "off-stage" shunting track. I misread dimensions when I ordered this - it is shallower than the main boards, and I needed to make up some feet to ensure the board tops were level, etc. On my later similar projects, I've just used a third BB021 board as the fiddle yard, so levels are set, and bolt holes aligned.

3mm cork was laid over the whole baseboard surface as ballast on the Wisbech and Upwell was fairly low profile and a lot of the track would be in yard or road areas anyway. I did not see a great need for a prominent ballast shoulder. I added a bit of terrain made from foam covered in ready-mixed filler with a bit of paint added. The "water", which would be fitted from below the board before final scenic detailing, was a piece of clear 4mm thick acrylic sheet painted in Humbrol Olive Drab on the lower surface using an aerosol.

A front profile was made up from 3mm ply, which was left oversize and finally cut to shape before painting and fitting when the scenery was completed.

I also added 3mm plywood into cut-outs in the cork at the baseboard joint to give a more consistent and stronger foundation for track joints, which were made using some etched custom-made copper-clad PCB sleepers kindly donated by fellow Missenden tutor John ABOVE: A J70 engaged in shunting crosses over a level crossing. The Telegraph pole is actually a US HO product from Rix.

TOP LEFT: A bit of sweeping around the goods office - the figure is by Peter Goss and the building Hornby Skaledale.

BOTTOM LEFT:

Even a small layout like 'Lockdown Fen' can still look spacious. The loading gauge is scratch-built using spare bullhead rail and strip brass.

LAYOUT I OO I LOCKDOWN FEN

Gowers. These are not unlike the product now made by Modeltech. The Peco bullhead track was laid and tested with electrical connectors pre-planned wherever possible. Point control is via a single push button for each one located on the fascia. The Cobalt digital point motors are simple to wire up in this configuration. I normally use a mimic trackplan panel, but for such a small layout with good sightlines, this works well.

Control is DCC via my trusty NCE Powercab. I've been very pleased with this system and have a number of extra throttles and other spares. The stack of six locomotives available on the RECALL button is sufficient for the layout, and means guest operators can easily get to grips with the operation. I also like the fact I can hold and control the throttle with one hand, leaving the right hand free for important accessories, such as tea and cake.

Although I use Kadee couplers, I am experimenting with Sprat & Winkle couplings for a new layout in 4mm, having successfully used them for 99% "handsoff" operation on my 7mm 'Bakewell Street' exhibition layout, and these may be adopted for 'Lockdown Fen'. Early experiments also suggest the Kadee magnet, which is already fitted, will work equally well for the S&W couplings, which I think are possibly a little easier on the eye than Kadees, especially with older short wagons and locomotives. I do, therefore, sometimes run some pre-BR stock equipped with S&Ws on 'Lockdown Fen', which makes a colourful change.

For operation, I normally use wagon cards with small photos of the individual items of rolling stock and these are displayed at the front of the layout, and this does tend to encourage "audience participation" at shows. It also makes what is a small and potentially boring layout a little more interesting and purposeful in operation.

The sidings as built will easily cope with three 10' WB wagons, plus the odd slightly longer cattle wagon or horsebox leaving the "main line" with plenty of room for the five-wagon train that results from each round of the shunting puzzle.



About the modeller

Name: Chris Hopper

Age: 65

Number of years modelling: 55 at least

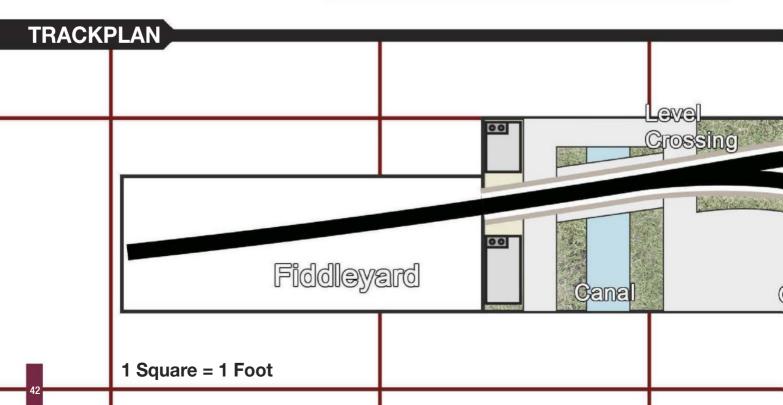
Name of your first exhibition layout: 'Gilbert Junction' (US HO

Boston & Maine)

Favourite era/region: London Midland Region 1970s onwards **Favourite locomotive:** Currently Class 68s, but I have many favourites, including those associated with the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway – I live close to the old route.

I have wide and varied railway interests, both prototype and model. I enjoy documenting the current scene, and I share a lot of my photos on RMweb and Flickr. I have built and exhibited layouts, in a variety of scales, including 0, H0, 00, 0N30 and 16mm.

Seven years ago, I attended a weathering weekend at Missenden with Tim Shackleton and the late Mick Bonwick providing the tutor input - I was a raw novice with a fear of airbrushing, but thanks to them, I now feel extremely confident dealing with both airbrushes and other weathering techniques, and since 2021, I have been the Airbrush Weathering tutor for the courses at Missenden as well as one of the organising team.



A Sutton 24 arrives in the yard hauling a Peco Wonderful Wagon Tank, which was a great little project. The smooth-running sound-fitted Class 24 is very lightly weathered to reflect its relatively recent introduction to service.



More Peter Goss figures provide a bit of interest around the layout.

LOCKDOWN FEN I OO I LAYOUT

Setting the scene

I worked on some of the scenic elements in advance (alongside the planning of the layout) so they could be fitted into the scenic development.

The road bridge over the canal is made up of DPM HO building parts – it is actually the top of an arched warehouse door. Its US building kits and modular parts often crop up as background buildings on UK 4mm layouts and are very effective. The rail bridge is by Wills and incorporates a single Kadee uncoupling magnet between the rails.

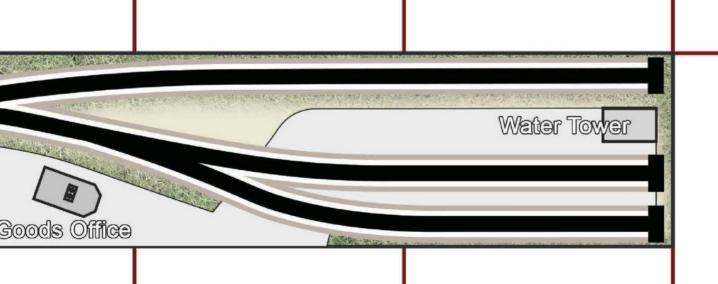
The goods yard office is a prototypical W&U Weighbridge office as modelled by Hornby in its Skaledale range (and as featured on several layouts that have already featured in BRM). It is another classic W&U scenery element I wanted to incorporate – it is partially repainted and weathered by me, and the BR(E) signs are by Scalescenes.

Other classic W&U scenic elements included a GER loading gauge. Photos were hard to find but I eventually found examples from Thetford, Manea and Mangapps Farm... I used some dimensions from an article in MRJ on a SR version to draw up a rough plan and it was then soldered up from BH Code 75 rail.

I wanted to include a small yard crane on a brickbuilt base (based on Framlingham), but there was simply not enough space to fit it in sensibly.

The water tower and water crane are based on those at Wisbech. The tower is a combination of stained strip wood for the support legs and a styrene tank detailed with Archers rivets. The ladder is some brass signal ladder from the spares box, suitably modified and shaped. My model is selectively compressed and is probably about 1:120 (what foresight!), if it was built to scale it would have overpowered everything else and required a significantly larger footprint.

The riverside fencing and life-buoy cabinet also appear in many W&U photos and were scratch-built from brass and plastic.



LAYOUT I OO I LOCKDOWN FEN

Laser-cut MDF kits by Petite Properties were used for the shops on the left side of the layout. These are enjoyable projects in their own right. I used downloaded brick papers from Scale Scenes, which are very good. I used some of Petite Properties' own brick and tile paper previously on some of the background buildings on 'Penmaenbach', but while I've used their wall finishes on 'Lockdown Fen', I've re-done the paper roofs with laser-cut tiles or Wills sheet pantiles painted and weathered, as they are very visible.

Various details were added, including road signs, gates, yard lights, fencing, walls, phone box, telephone and power lines and vegetation. A few appropriate

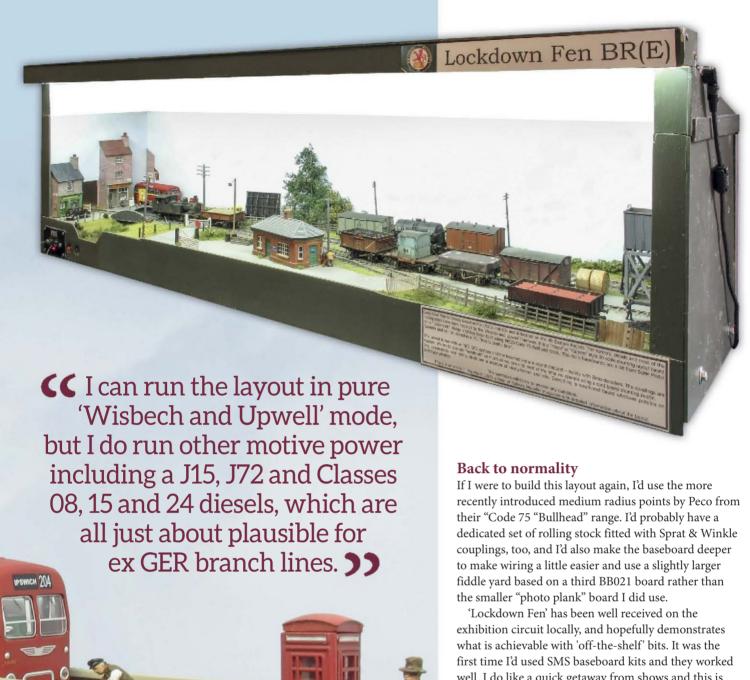
vehicles were found and weathered. The point levers were scratch-built from brass as I find the commercial whitemetal castings are easily damaged. I keep an eye on what's available to the HO modeler and the HO Walthers Utility poles and Rix telegraph posts adapt very well for 4mm use.

Other scenery included static grass, appropriate canal-side vegetation and some wooden boarding at road crossings in the yard. This took a surprising amount of "fettling" to ensure the wooden planks did not interfere with running.

I've used a small number of figures from different sources, including some supplied and painted by Peter Goss.

BELOW: A Heljan Class 15 blocks the small high street. The canal is a key scenic element from the Wisbech and Upwell and really adds to the scenic interest. However, I really must re-fit the top of the Telephone Box....





well. I do like a quick getaway from shows and this is definitely my quickest layout to both set up and break down. I normally exhibit it slightly raised on a suitably covered table provided by the organisers at shows. This means some people draw up a chair and watch and sometimes play trains (although I have the option of higher trestles if I wish depending on the nature of the

exhibition).

'Lockdown Fen' is well and truly finished - a rarity in the world of railway modelling - but since it was completed, I have finished one other layout using the SMS RUB boards - this time a 1960s/1970s urban goods yard and cement terminal inspired by some of the lines around my childhood home in Liverpool. Currently underway is a small Somerset and Dorset BR-era cameo, which is completely impractical, a little anachronistic and probably implausible, but also great fun (...and that's the point, surely?)

The layouts are 'Cropper Street Sidings' and 'Timsbury Bottom' respectively, and are featured on RMweb.





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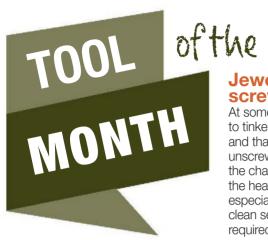
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Getting Practical with...



Jewellers screwdrivers

At some point, we all have to tinker with locomotives, and that usually means unscrewing things. To reduce the chances of stripping the heads on the screws, especially cross-heads, a nice clean set of screwdrivers is required. Buy the best you can, and then only use them for tinkering. My set from CK will cost around £12 to replace. It was a present and has lasted over 25 years, so well worth the money.





To be honest, I've never had a problem with shiny grass, but different makes vary in both colour and shine. However, if it's a problem, some matt varnish (I use stuff from wargames supplier, The Army Painter) will work.

The secret to a matt finish is to shoot light coats on from a distance of 25-30cm, as it says on the can. I assume this gives the varnish time to harden slightly so you get the requisite micro-texture. 25-30cm is quite a bit further than you might naturally work.



New on the workbench

Track laying tools

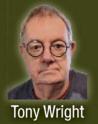
An ingenious pair of tools from West Hill Wagon Works. The Track Pin Mate is slotted between the rails and provides a hole as a drilling guide so that track pins are fitted in the middle of the sleepers. Once drilled, slide the tool back slightly, and a rare-earth magnet grips the pin while you hammer it into position. The tool will need to be removed for the final few taps, but at least by that point it should be well

The Rail Joiner Mate holds fishplates firmly, so they can be slotted on the end of rails. You can do this with pliers, but it's easy to crush the tops this way. Fingers work, too, but I tend to poke the metal into the end of my fingertip this way.

All tools are available for OO and TT:120 gauges.











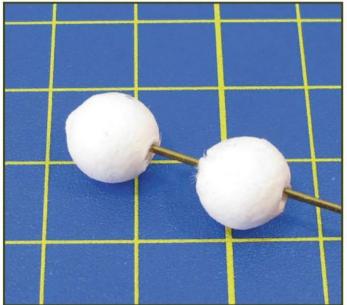
Carol Flavin

Build a snowman

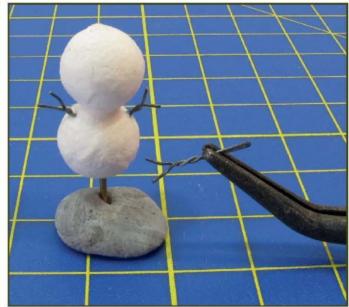
You'll be walking in the air when you realise that building this Christmas card staple only takes a few minutes.



Phil Parker



Start with a couple of compressed paper balls from a craft shop. For my OO snowman, I've used 10mm diameter ones. They are forced on to the length of stiff wire to form the body.



Arms, made from sticks in real life, are bent from fine iron wire. Drill a couple of holes in the body and glue in place. I use Deluxe Glue'n'glaze, but PVA will work just as well.



We'll need a carrot for his nose, which starts life as a cocktail stick dipped in orange paint. Cut to length when dry, and glue into a hole in the face.



The finishing touch is some lumps of coal for the face and buttons. Dots of black paint applied with the end of a cocktail stick are the simplest way to achieve this.

Model a River Scene



Michael Russell

WHAT YOU NEED

Deluxe Materials

Aqua Magic

Ferro-Train

M-387.10-S-FM Fishing boat

Gaugemaster

GM185 Weeping Willow Trees

Hornby

R7341 Stone Footbridge

R7204 Beech Trees

R7160 Dark Brown

R7158 Dark Green Flockage

Scalemodelscenery

AX147-OO Lifebuoys & Cabinets

LX386-OO Small Wooden Jetties

LX453-OO Industrial Staircases

SP001-OO Limestone

SP002-OO Sandstone Stone Powder

South Eastern Finecast

Stone block Builder Sheet

TerraScenic

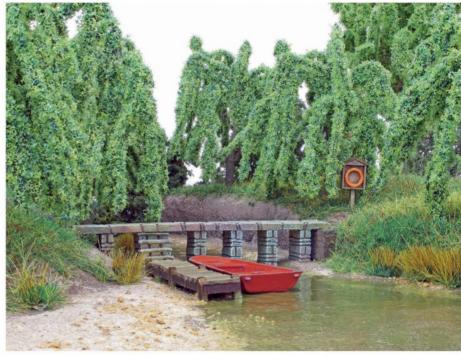
Styrogoo

WW Scenics

Wild grass 10mm tufts

Other

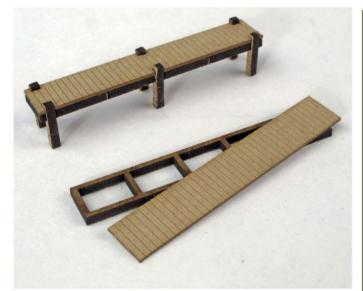
PVA glue, superglue, tile grout, cereal packet cardboard, extruded foam, household filler, Indian ink, craft acrylic paint (green, grey, brown), masking tape, craft knives, small paintbrushes, small clean foil cake cases



The English have a great tradition of messing about on the river in boats. The attraction is obvious and to be recommended, if you've never tried it.

Such idyllic scenes lend themselves to being modelled on our model railways as we all like to recall halcyon days. Of course, rivers and railways often follow each other, as both water and railway engineers like to take the easiest path! So, this is a good reason to include a river on your layout. This article is an attempt to reconstruct a river scene using easily-available off-the-shelf parts, very simple-toconstruct kits, and only a few tools.

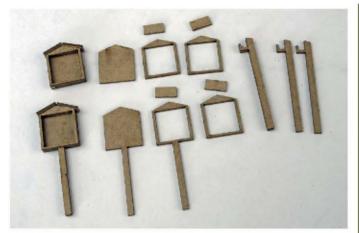
Customise the planking by cutting bits out to represent missing material. Cut one plank out and bend it in the middle before sticking it back in place.



The jetties are easy to build. Simply stick the six legs onto the raised jetties and then stick the wooden planks on the top. Use PVA glue. One set has neat planking and the other is wonky, which gives a useful choice.



Paint using very dilute Indian ink or acrylic paint. Paint some of the planking in a light tone to represent material that has been renewed due to rot. Paint the lower ends of the legs in green.



The lifebuoy cabinets come in three layers and the posts in two. Stick together with PVA. The lifebuoys are printed in orange plastic and are ready to use - just stick them in place with superglue.



The stairs are from the Airfix Airfield Control Tower kit, although industrial stairs are available separately. The stone abutment is made from stone plastic card painted brown and cut to match the contour of the banking, and fits under the end of the footbridge.



Place the main components in situ and decide where you want the river to run. Transfer the curve of the river to paper and then to the extruded foam. The latter is easy to cut and relatively clean in use, but still have a vacuum cleaner to hand.



Place the main components and the foam back in place and start to carve the bank sides to match the height of the bridge. Aim for variety. Consider undercutting the banks on the outside of bends due to high winter floods.



To ensure the water is only a few millimetres deep, we need some form of depth gauge. Use cereal packet cardboard in layers to form the riverbed. I used four layers stuck together with PVA and cut to form contours.



It is essential that the bridge sits on the lowest layer so that the pier ends are not left above the waterline. Mark where any piers meet the cardboard and cut through with a sharp knife.



Continue to cut the foam until you are happy with the level. Now stick the foam in place with Styrogoo. It is worth using a dedicated foam glue as this is one thing that PVA does not work well with.



Spread a thin layer of plaster over the scene to cover any holes in the scenery and to create a smooth transition between the cardboard layers of the river bed.



Paint the scenery with PVA and then sprinkle on your soil mix. I used a combination of chocolateand limestone-coloured tile grout. The idea behind this first layer is to get a background soil colour over all the scenery.



Using stone powder, sprinkle sandstone and limestone onto the riverbanks and sandbanks. The idea is to add variety. Not only will the stone powder alter the colours, it also contains a variety of particle sizes.



Paint the scenery with PVA glue and sprinkle on flockage. After shaking off the excess, repeat, but this time using static grass. Once dry, add more layers of grass, aiming for variety.



For waterside grass, I used grass tufts. These are a uniform round shape, so to make them look less contrived, split them up into smaller pieces using a sharp craft knife. Stick in place with PVA glue.



It is necessary to seal the riverbed before pouring the river. To do this, paint the lowest section of the bed with neat Agua Magic using a small brush. Leave it to dry for 24 hours and ensure that it is fully hard before proceeding further.



Stick the bridge, jetty and other items in place with PVA glue and ensure that the jetty is level you may need to cut the legs to different lengths to match the riverbed. Seal off the ends of the riverbed with masking tape.



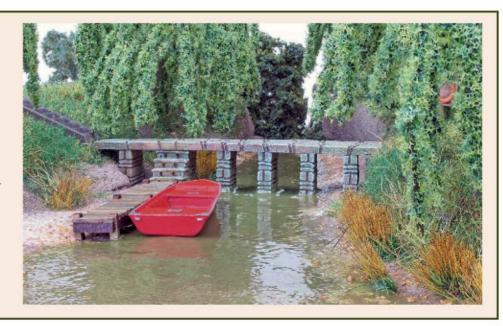
Mix the resin up in a foil dish as this can easily be deformed to make a pouring spout. If you wish to colour your water, then mix in very small amounts of acrylic paint. I used green and brown.



Pour the resin evenly over the riverbed and help it into corners using a small paintbrush. The resin always seems to ripple without any attention, so I did not texture it.

Conclusion

This is a simple scene to put together that is within the skills of all modellers. One thing to watch out for is the use of Aqua Magic. It is vital that you only add very thin layers of this product, otherwise you will have problems with it drying. I would recommend 1mm layers and be careful to ensure that each is dry before proceeding. Following the system described here will allow you to closely judge the depth of the layers as you add them. Note that it isn't necessary to use a deep level of model water to portray deep water. You can control how deep the model water looks by its colour.



Refurbish a second-hand station



Phil Parker

WHAT YOU NEED

Humbrol

Reddish Stone (784) Dark Sand Stone (782) Light Stone (785)

Ratio

420 GWR Station Fencing, (Includes Gates & Ramps) 421 GWR Station Fencing

Slater's

0424 - Dressed Stone Buff 0140 - 0.040" (1.00mm) white Plastikard

Scalemodelscenery

LX416-OO Pristine Roof Slates LX515-OO Sash Windows LX169 – OO Small Stone Quoins (Optional)

Wills

SS68 Platform Accessories

Wizard Models

DL-Limonene

Other

Plastic cement, power sander, primer, talcum powder, masking tape, UHU, cigarette papers, mild solder



The hobby is getting more expensive we are told. People don't have as much money as they used to. They can't afford it. We're all doomed.

Do not worry – it's Phil to the rescue. If you are short of cash, just adding a bit of imagination, and some modelling time, you could save a few quid, while still having a layout to be proud of.

This month's model started life as an unloved box at the back of my local model shop. Inside was a Hornby R8000 country station, built, and ready to grace a train set. It had a platform, building, fencing, motorised trolley puller and quite a lot of people. Price - $\mathfrak{L}25$. The Hornby people alone were worth that.

Introduced in the 1980s, this model has been in the Hornby range with various wall finishes ever since, so there's no shortage of them to choose from, or you can buy a new model for under $\mathfrak{L}40$.

All very well of course, but placed beside a modern, resin, ready-to-plonk building, it looks like a poor relation, there's no relief to the wall finishes, and the platform looks like plastic bits clipped together, with really odd wide, white edging slabs.

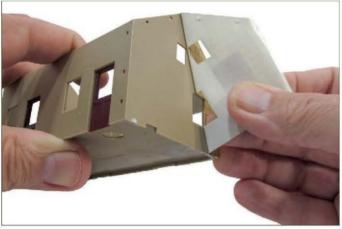
No problem though, some paint, a few accessories and a sheet of Plastikard later, and the model has been transformed. Now, it could find a home on any model railway.



Dug out from the back of my local model shop, this R8000 Country Station from Hornby has obviously been rescued from someone's model railway. Fitted with both Doncaster and Reading nameboards, it's not a great model of either, but has potential.



All the figures are stuck down and need to be carefully lifted by sliding a sharp knife under the bits of clear plastic their feet are attached to. Don't try to pull them loose, the rubbery material they are moulded in will stretch and snap, leaving a collection of feet on the platform!



When first introduced to the range, the buildings arrived pre-printed, often in an "interesting" stone effect. This has been replaced with more realistic large stickers, which can be peeled away from the plastic surface of the model.



The platform sections are glued together with plastic cement, and the joints filled. There are some odd drain cover mouldings in the surface, plus holes for canopy poles; these are dealt with Plastikard and more filler.



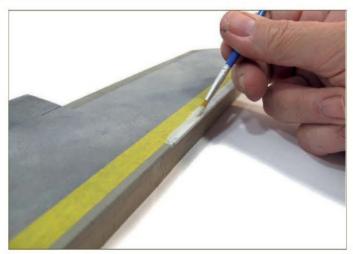
Time for some serious tools, a power sander fitted with 240 grit abrasive, the smoothest I have to hand, is taken to the platform top to smooth the filler and also remove the worst of those ugly white edging slabs.



I wash the platform to remove the last of the dust, and then I apply a coat of spray primer, which will helpfully show any areas that need more sanding and filler.



The sanding removes some of the surface texture, but this is covered up by dabbing tarmac colours using a sponge. Patting a bit of talcum powder on the tacky paint helps, too.



The only way to ensure a nice straight white safety line along the edge is to use some masking tape, carefully lined up 3mm from the front edge. This is a steam-era station, obviously, modern platforms are much more complicated.



Ratio station fencing is sprayed with white primer, and glued to the back edge; all except for the stuff on the stairs, which is the original Hornby item. It looks so neat, it seems a shame not to reuse it.



The basic building appears both as a station and a pair of cottages. My example has had its chimneys shortened, a good move as they are too tall straight from the box.



I'm cladding the building using Slater's dressed stone Plastikard, fixed with DL-Limonene from Wizard Models. This is a mild solvent which won't melt the thin plastic sheet. Note the overlaps on the corners, which are trimmed once the glue sets to avoid gaps.



Rather than try to cut window holes in the sheet. and risk them not lining up properly, I poke a sharp blade through the plastic, and carefully enlarge the hole to meet the edges of the one on the building.



The corners line up well enough that I can just nick the mortar lines with a knife and everything blends together. If they hadn't, I had ordered a set of laser-cut quoins to cover any gaps. I'm sure they will come in handy in the future, though.



A base coat of Reddish Stone (784) from the Lifecolor range starts the painting process. Some stones are picked out with Dark Sand Stone (782), and others with a mix of the base coat as Light Stone (785). Try not to have too great a difference with the colour; subtlety is the key here.



Normally, I stick the slates to a card surface, but Hornby's roof is plastic. UHU works well, giving a good firm hold and no mess. I cut the lines of slates over-long, and trim them back to the edges once the glue is dry.



My slating around the chimneys isn't perfect, but some lead flashing, made from strips of cigarette paper, covers the gaps, just like it does on a real building.



Although I'm reusing the glazing for the doors, all the windows are upgraded with laser-cut frames, which add depth and make the model look a lot better.



Final details include a lamp and clock, from the original station, along with a few of the people, now sitting on a bench from the Wills Platform Accessories pack, which also supplied the noticeboard.



Weathering Victorian Terrace Houses

WHAT YOU NEED

Eckon weathering powders

EWP02 Rust & Decay, EWP03 Mud & Greenery

Lifecolor acrylic paints

Black, white, green & brown

Chipping medium

Woodland Scenics

Fine Turf T41 Soil, T45 green

Acrylic thinners, matt PVA glue, small paint brushes, scissors, small flatThese terrace buildings, although they are Victorian, straight out of the box look like they are newly constructed, and so they require guite a lot of attention. On close observation, it is surprising sometimes how even brick or stonework can vary in colour from one house to another, even when they are part of the same terrace.

When weathering buildings, pay particular attention to the roofs. These are prominent because the most common viewpoint of our models is from above. Also, being on a horizontal plane, they are more subject to the accumulation of detritus from the air and the growth of moss, etc. Try also to vary the level of weathering between buildings, even those next to each other.

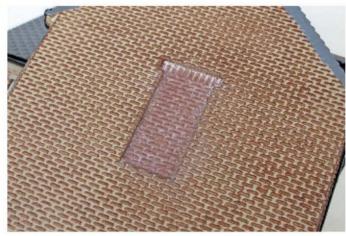


Michael Russell





Paint gutters, doors and roof expanses in different colours. Try making the colours match the different elements on the same house or depict unpainted replacement parts, such as a grey downpipe.



This bricked-up window would be more realistic if the brickwork looked fresher than the surrounding area. Paint the new bricks a brighter shade, and then add a pale sand wash to represent the mortar.



Colour bricks random shades to take away uniformity. Apply sweeps of different colours using a rag wrapped around your finger and/or a flat-bladed screwdriver. Use different brick shades or try variations of black and white.



Spray the walls of the model with chipping fluid and, when dry, paint with an off-white acrylic (it must be acrylic for this to work). If you wish, weather this as you did in the previous step.



After the paint has dried, take a damp rag and rub the walls gently to remove paint in a random fashion. Wrap the rag around a flat-bladed screwdriver to reach into small areas.



Mix dark grey and green paint and dilute with thinners to make a wash. Apply this randomly to the roofs to create some variation in the shade.

ALL SKILL LEVELS



Add streaks using a dry-brush technique. I prefer to use a bristle brush for this. Make two passes, one using a shade darker than the tiles and one lighter to create realistic variation.



Brush the roof with a dilute PVA mix and sprinkle on a thin layer of foam using a sieve. You only want a light dusting. I used a mix of green and grey fine foam; don't use a bright green on its own.



When dry, you will probably find that your moss and debris coating is too thick. It is difficult to get this right. Brush gently to start with to remove excess, which can be saved for reuse. Brush harder, if need be, with a stiff bristle brush.



Mix white, black and green weathering powders together and use a small brush to apply this mix around the base of the building to represent rain splashback. I cut the hairs very short on my brush for this.



Use black weathering powder for the shadows, applied using your weathering brush. Do an even sweep below any part of the building that juts out from the vertical; eaves, window sills, etc.

Conclusion

Small amounts of repainting and weathering can add a lot of character to buildings and make them look much more realistic. Home improvements

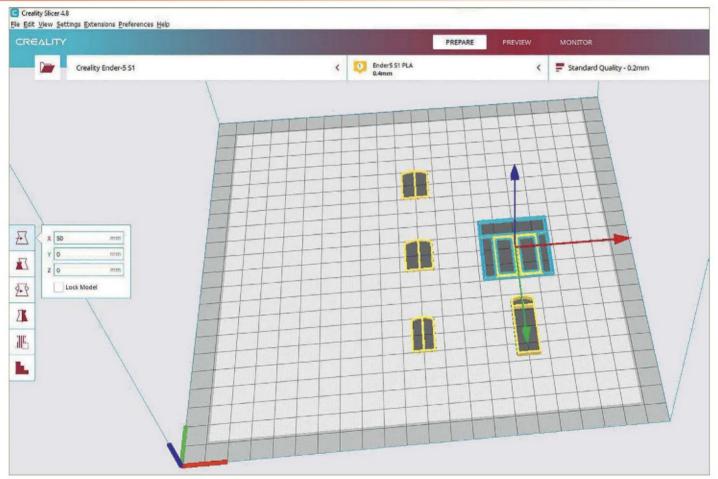


are common, so be sure to add lots of variety.

One area that I haven't tackled, and that looks too uniform on the models, are the window frames. New windows could be designed in Desktop Publishing software and printed onto clear plastic using a colour laser printer. Overhead projector film is ideal for this.

Diary with a 3D printer: Making Components





I have wanted to develop and print some parts for models, and the opportunity arose when I was sent a ScaleModelScenery Bonded Warehouse kit. I decided to update this to represent modern apartments and so new windows and doors would be required. The dimensions can be taken directly from the kit, and it is purely a matter of making the new parts fit the pre-cut holes in the sides. Be sure to allow for the overlays that wrap around the apertures and the window sills.

The first obstacle I encountered was creating the arch-top windows in Tinkercad. There isn't a native shape to represent these. I wasn't happy with those provided by 3rd parties, and so it was time for a workaround. I turned to a 2D vector graphics program called Inkscape. This is a free and open source. Using the pen and bezier curve tools, I was able to draw the components I wanted and export my design as an SVG file. The second problem was to convert this to an STL file ready for the slicer software. Tinkercad wasn't happy with the files and chose not to convert them. However, I found free online conversion tools that performed the task satisfactorily. It was just a question of uploading the SVG file and setting the extrusion height.

Importing the STL files into the Cura software piled all the prints in the centre of the print bed area. The answer is to

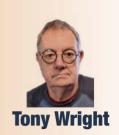
move them around the print bed so that many can be printed in one go. This also gives them a chance to cool before the next layer is added. It is a good idea to do this even if you are only printing a single part, as you need to even out wear on the print bed. This was achieved by selecting each part in turn and then using the move option that pops up on the left-hand side of the screen to redistribute the parts. Use positive and negative x and y values to achieve this. Don't alter the z coordinates, though!

It is important that your printer is calibrated to produce the parts at the dimensions required. If there is any error here then, even if the parts are the correct size in the CAD software, the printer will print them larger or smaller than that specified. The best way to ascertain this beforehand is to use the Benchy test print along with some callipers and to check the dimensions against those listed on the Benchy website. If you find that the dimensions are out, you can recalibrate the printer.

The main thing I have learned this time is that 3D prints can be made using 2D software and that this is sometimes a useful workaround, or even a shortcut in some circumstances.

You can see the complete build for the bonded warehouse in a future issue of BRM magazine.

Detailing the new Hornby P2





WHAT YOU NEED

Comet

Frame-mounted guard irons

Hornby

Crew

Humbrol

Black/Brown enamel paints

Springside

Lamps

Other

Coal, etched brass nameplates, PVA, superglue, small spanner Having reviewed two of Hornby's latest P2 models in the last issue of BRM, I thought I'd turn my attention to some minor 'upgrades' to No. 2003 Lord President. This was the first of the Bugatti-nosed P2s, with front ends resembling A4s (2001 and 2002 were later altered to this style). This, along with 2004, 2005 and 2006, had streamlined non-corridor tenders when new (Nos. 2001 and 2002 had A3-style high-sided non-corridor tenders, with turn-ins at the front and beading. These were not altered). I decided to leave 2003 alone in its identity because no two of the class were ever exactly the same – 2004 had detail differences, 2005 had a single chimney (available from Hornby) and 2006 had a different boiler with combustion chamber (this 'no two being the same' continued when the giant Mikados were rebuilt into Pacifics).

Controversy will remain as long as enthusiasts debate Thompson's decision to rebuild the P2s into A2/2s, but what cannot be denied is how impressive the P2s looked in original form; captured by a most-impressive model from Hornby.

The following pictures show how I got on.....

INTERMEDIATE



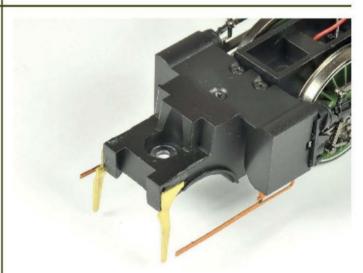
The model represents 2003 at least 18 months into its life, with the fairing around the tender water filler removed for ease of access. Reliable source material is vital, and here I'm using an Isinglass drawing and the RCTS Part 2A in the 'Green Series'. Yeadon's work was also consulted.



Fortunately, the pocket to take the tensionlock couplings was just a push-fit into the pony and was easily removed (how many pictures exist of a P2 pulling a train in reverse? I've never seen one).



I'd already fitted the extra bits at the front end supplied by Hornby for my review. These included the metal nameplates (unfortunately, these have no relief and are too thick). The obese NEM pocket sticks out from the pony's front.



Despite being mentioned, no frame-mounted guard irons were supplied (though they were with 2007). These are very prominent, so must be fitted. This pair came from a Comet set of frames for an A3, fixed with superglue (they were removed from the A3s by 1953).

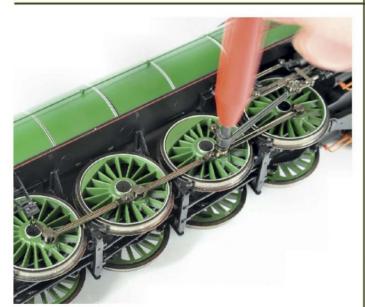




I thought of replacing the printed worksplates with etched items, but these are superbly legible, so left them as they were. Hornby kindly supplied a crew. The crew members were fixed in place with superglue. applied to their posteriors, for sitting on their seats.



I have a thing about valve gear 'looking right' in motion, and Hornby's P2 had hardly any motion imparted to the expansion link as supplied, the reason being that the bearing for the big end of the eccentric rod lines up exactly with the axle's centre.

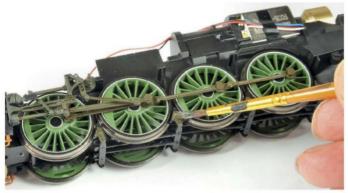


was given this tool during one of my visits to Hornby headquarters in Margate; it's a little box spanner which exactly fits Hornby's hexagonal-headed valve gear screws. It's a simple job to undo the screw and turn the return crank forwards a few degrees, tightening it all up afterwards.



The difference in the return crank's angle is remarkable and it looks like Gresley gear in motion now. Unhappy with the 'lumpy' Hornby nameplates, I substituted with etched brass examples. These came from an Ace kit for a P2 I'd built, but others are available from many manufacturers in the hobby.

INTERMEDIATE



Even though Hornby's motion was darkened slightly, it was still too shiny for my tastes. Even locos fresh from shops would have toned-down, greasy valve gear, so I just painted it with matt black/brown enamels and oiled afterwards. I painted the brake blocks at the same time.



Strangely, the tender wheels (correctly discs -2007's are correctly spoked) were painted green. The LNER painting spec' stipulated black tender wheels, so licks of matt black enamel soon changed these.



Moulded plastic coal looks like, err, moulded plastic. I smeared some cheap PVA over the plastic coal using a cocktail stick and then took a small piece of household coal, put it into a stout polythene bag and whacked it with a toffee hammer. It was then a simple job to sprinkle the coal over the PVA.



No loco runs on my Little Bytham without lamps. These are from Springside, and all I did was drill holes in their bases using a pin-vice and small bit. The lamps then fitted over Hornby's lamp brackets. For security, I fixed them permanently with superglue, which also strengthened the brackets.



Fattening up a low-relief Chapel

A piece of advice worth remembering when planning a new layout is to avoid track running parallel to the edge of the baseboard. This screams "model" to any viewer, ruining the illusion. Move the plan a few degrees so trains run diagonally across the board, and it all looks so much more natural, for very little effort.

That advice is freely dished out, but just as important is to avoid a line of building faces sticking out along the backscene. Real towns grow organically over time, apart from Milton Keynes perhaps, and the buildings tend not to be quite so regimented. However, there are a lot of low-relief models out there that can lead the unwary modeller into a trap.

Fortunately, this isn't a problem. We just need to add some sides to fatten them up! My model starts life as ScaleModelScenery's Hayle Chapel lowrelief N gauge kit. Looking online, I found some prototype pictures, and then largely ignored them. The real chapel has rendered sides and front, and I felt that bricks would provide an interesting contrasting colour. This is common enough, for many, it's all about the facade, the sides were often hidden.

There's a bit of scratch-building required, but nothing too challenging. Best of all, since this is an N gauge model, the amount of material required is tiny. A sheet

WHAT YOU NEED

Deluxe Materials

Speed Bond & Roket card glue

Humbrol

121 (Pale stone)

ScaleModelScenery

UW2008-N Hayle Chapel (Low-relief) LX340-OO Narrow Arch Top Sash Windows LX410-N Pre-Weathered Roof Slates

Slaters

Plastikard

Other

Plain card, rule, craft knife, small paintbrush

of embossed brick Plastikard, and some 1mm plain sheet will provide enough for about a dozen models, so if one part goes wrong, chuck it in the bin and make another. By the time you've finished, you'll be a dab hand at this, and ready to tackle more complex models.

My chapel will stick out of the backscene at a jaunty angle. Yours will probably be different, as it will be designed to fit the site vou have available.



Phil Parker

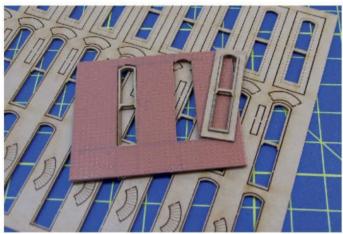
The side pieces will be on display in my version of the chapel, so they are cut back to match the front pillars. A few strokes with a heavy craft knife makes short work of the thin MDF, but use a rule, and keep fingers out of the way.



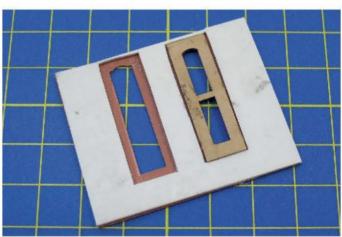
Despite the front being made of MDF, Roket Card Glue is perfect for assembly as it grabs fast, so progress is quick. Don't apply the glue straight from the bottle, it's very runny, put a blob on a bit of plastic, and use a small brush.



Hayle Chapel is painted a cream colour, which I replicated with Humbrol 121 (Pale stone) over a grey primer base. As well as soaking into the MDF, sealing it for the top coat, it also dulls the colour slightly.



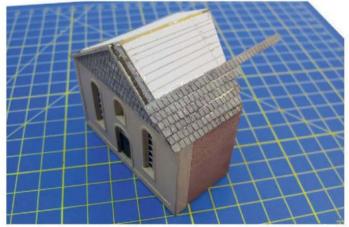
With no N gauge windows to hand, I'm using some from the 4mm range, which are an ideal size and shape. The walls are made of brick Plastikard, with the windows poking through. The tricky curved top will be covered with decorative stones from the window fret later.



Embossed Plastikard on its own is too thin for model walls, so I'm bracing it with 1mm plain sheet. Holes are cut to fit around the back of the windows. Unless you are fitting lights in the building, these don't need to be a perfect fit.



Plastic side walls and an MDF front require a glue capable of sticking different types of material. Deluxe Speed Bond is ideal for this, providing a firmer joint than an all-purpose glue like UHU, which can leave a flexible joint, which we don't want here.



On the roof, I've drawn lines 3mm apart on the card base, to act as guides for the rows of slates. The odd wonky slate might be OK, but generally, they should be nice and straight. The wonky line at the top, I corrected by eye...

Modelling a Winter Scene

WHAT YOU NEED

Deluxe Materials

Realistic Water

Gaugemaster

Icicle Paste, Light up Christmas Tree, Mod Podge Glue, Noch 15828 Downhill Skiers, Noch N15819 Children In The Snow Sledging, Noch Snow Paste, Noch Snow Powder

Osborne Models

ALOO201 Arch Laser Flexible Cotswold Stone Walling

Vallejo

Snow Paste

Woodland Scenics

A1894 Snowball Fight, A1899 Ice Skaters, Flex Paste, Winter pack

A selection of spatulas, bicarbonate of soda, Das Air Dried Clay, toilet roll, white acrylic paint, Indigo and Black

Last year, I was invited to attend the Warley National Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC with my fellow LocoLadies, and I took a village diorama, 'Higher Edge Village'. It was a typical Yorkshire village, with a cobbled market square, a church and shops with Magnorail cyclists weaving their way under arches and around the village. It also had a short length of track representing a heritage railway with a station.

Having been invited back to Warley for 2023, I made the decision to revamp the village into a snowy, icy, winter scene. I had never modelled winter before, but I always liked doing something new, so I decided to completely redo the village to take it back to the exhibition in 2023.

Although heavy snowfalls are rare nowadays in the UK, they do still happen, and I wanted to have the whole village covered in substantial snowfall. That being said, there are plenty of different snow effects that would need to be created if I were to produce a realistic scene - here are six of the key areas that I focused on, plus the differing techniques and approaches needed for each.



Carol Flavin



ROOFS

This provided me with my greatest challenge as there were a lot of roofs to cover. While really effective, the Vallejo snow paste I brought was not going to go far enough and could be a very expensive exercise. A look on YouTube showed a way to make the snow paste using bicarbonate of soda, Mod Podge Glue, a small amount of white acrylic paint and a shake of white glitter. This was well mixed with a wide spatula.

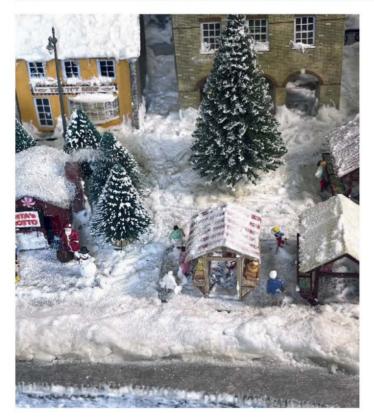
I was happy to use this in quantity knowing that the snow pastes could be used for the finishing touches.

I took each building onto my workbench, and used a wide, flat spatula to spread the snow paste over the roof. It was like icing a cake! I then tidied the snow up with a smaller spatula, spreading the snow paste up the chimneys. I then spread a small amount of the Vallejo snow paste on window ledges and any other area where snow would settle.

This dried hard overnight, and I added snowflakes and powders afterwards by putting a thin layer of Mod Podge on top of the snow and sprinkling the light snowflakes on top. Once snowflakes covered the whole layout, I replaced the smoke on the chimneys - which I consider to be very evocative of winter.







FOOTPRINTS

I wanted to make the village square and its surroundings look as if there had been a heavy fall of snow, with people walking around creating tracks and snow prints. I drew around each of the buildings, groups of market stalls, central Christmas tree and Santa's Grotto with black pen and started filling in the gaps between with Noch snow paste. As soon as I had laid it, I used a number of items to create the movements in the snow - the end of the spatula I had used to lav the snow paste, a cocktail stick and an OO gauge figure with 'walking' feet. These were used to move the snow paste around in such a way that some of the cobbles still showed through, and it looked as if lots of people had been wandering around in fresh snow.

I put all of the buildings back in the layout, building up small amounts of snow to hide any joints. The only two buildings that were made to be regularly taken off were the arched gatehouse at the front right, and the long row of shops with an arch underneath. I made sure that these buildings had piles of snow at the base as well as the snow on the roofs, but these buildings need to be removable because, from past experience, the moving cyclists sometimes need rescuing, and this would give me easy access to stand them back up again.

In the centre of the marketplace is a rather magnificent Noch lightup Christmas tree, to which I added snow and gold baubles.

I used a variety of figures from my store in this scene, wandering around and attending the winter market. There is also a Father Christmas in front of his grotto, a snowman and a snowball fight with children. The snowballing figures are the Woodland Scenics A1894 Snowball Fight.

SNOWY MOUNTAIN

I revisited the layout of the village to create enough space for me to form a mountain out of loft insulation foam in the left-hand corner with a castle on the top and trees on a cliff above the village. I determined the shape and size of the mountain and made it into realistic terrain using Mod Podge glue and toilet paper (which dries hard). This was turned into countryside with grass and cliffs and a ruined castle was added (a bargain resin aquarium model), which I painted to look like it was from Yorkshire.

Once fully dry, I covered the terrain with the Woodland Scenics Flex Paste, which did a good job of covering the terrain. I made some snowdrifts on the cliff tops and added a selection of snow-covered fir trees. I painted the trees using the WS Flex Paste, painting from the bottom upwards, and added a light covering of Woodland Scenics snow powder straight into the wet paste. Once dry, I sprayed a light coat of firm-hold hair spray to ensure it stayed in place.

I added snow piles to the ledges on the cliff face using the Noch snow paste, and I also used this on the castle, putting the snow paste in crevices and ledges where snow would land.



SKI SLOPE

The ski slope is really the road up to the castle, but I wanted to create a ski slope to the right of the river that would run down and curve around the front of the layout, mirroring the shape of the Magnorail cycle track. I used a layer of household filler, which I smoothed in place with a small amount of water and with my hands. I used my fingers to create slight curves on the surface to look like the tracks made by skiers.

Once fully dry, I painted it with white acrylic paint and finished it off with artists' gloss varnish. To the side of both the lake and river, as well as the ski slope, I created snowdrifts (see section on making snowdrifts). Having used the household filler and the Noch snow paste, I then immediately sprinkled a layer of the Woodland Scenics snow on top, ensuring it stayed in place with a light coat of hairspray.

To the right-hand side of the ski slope, and to ensure there was some safety measures in place, I used Osborne Models ALOO201 Arch Laser Flexible Cotswold Stone Walling, which is very realistic and paints up well. I added small snow drifts at the side of the wall with Noch paste and Noch snow powders.

At the bottom of the ski slope, as it drops into the village at the front, I made this area slightly rougher to accommodate some sledgers. I used a number of figures, including the Noch 15828 Downhill Skiers and Noch N15819 Children In The Snow Sledging.

SNOWDRIFTS

I wanted to outline the Magnorail cycle track that existed from the original model with snowdrifts. I wasn't sure how to do these, until I came up with a very simple solution. I used ordinary household filler as the basis. It is white to start with and can be nicely formed into the right shape of snowdrift with a spatula and my fingers.

Once dry, it is the perfect shape to be covered in snow paste using a spatula, which allowed me to form soft, shiny and twinkly snowdrifts. I found that, if I added snowflakes while the snow paste was still wet, I could sprinkle it directly where it was needed with my fingertips. Very gently pushing it in place meant that it largely stayed in place by itself when dry, and a light spray of strong-hold hairspray was enough to ensure this. I masked everything else on the layout with a soft cloth before spraying it. I found the Noch products worked particularly well on these snowdrifts as they have a very light glitter effect.

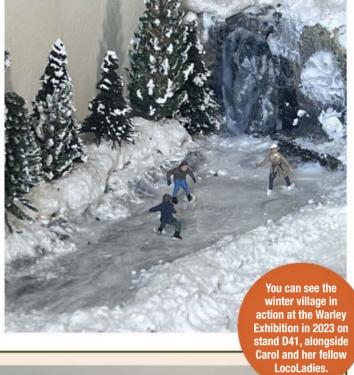


FROZEN LAKE

I drew out on the surface and then carved the river, the waterfalls and the lake into the loft insulation foam. This all had a layer of toilet paper and Mod Podge to protect it, and once dry, I painted it very dark indigo with the deepest parts in black. I added a few small rocks in the river at the base of the waterfalls and rapids at the exit from the lake. These were made from a Javis product made from cork and painted grev.

The first layer of water was Galleria Heavy Structure Gel, applied with a spatula in the river and particularly in the waterfalls, and left to dry. As an artist, this is a product I know I can rely on to create realist-looking currents. It gives a 3D texture, creating the look of movement and it can be painted when dry using white acrylic to highlight where the currents are. The second coat on the river was Galleria Gloss Medium with a couple of drops of white acrylic paint in it. This can be painted on with a soft, wide paintbrush to form the icy-looking surface.

The lake was slightly deeper, so I poured Deluxe Materials Realistic Water, filling 3/4 of the depth of the lake. Once dry, I poured on a thin layer and immediately poured a second layer on top, with a couple of drops of white acrylic paint mixed into it. I smoothed this on the top with a flat wide spatula, making sure I didn't create a marbling effect, which would happen if I used a paintbrush. I left a small amount of the almost black water showing through to provide evidence of depth but not look as if the ice was melting. The icy lake has Woodland Scenics A1899 Ice Skaters.





Conclusion

To complete the scene, the whole diorama/layout got a coat of snow powder/snowflakes. I found the Noch snowflakes looked best on the roofs and the hills, as well as the snowdrifts on the railway section, largely because these were larger flakes. The Woodland Scenics snow was more powdery and was better on the market area, and the train tracks and station, where I used it more thinly. Icy sprinkles, glitter and icy pastes were used as the final finishing touch, so that light shining on the village gave an icy/twinkly effect.

The greatest challenge was the amount of product required to model the snow so extensively. The snow powders (soft snow) do go a long way, and any that don't stick to the surface can

be reused, but the snowdrifts required solidity and I didn't have enough of the snow pastes to create them. Making the base of the snowdrifts with ordinary household filler and creating my own snow paste made the whole process cheaper and easier, leaving the products I had acquired to be used for the finishing touches.

The second challenge was unexpected. A few of the products that were already on the layout leaked or allowed colour to weep through. This included the roof ridges of some of the older card kits, which turned the snow pink, and some grass and hedge products that turned the products bright lime green overnight. I eventually found Das White Clay gave an impermeable layer that could be painted with snow paste when dry.



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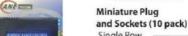
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LAYOUT I N I BRAUGHING & STANDON



BUNTINGFORD: ARETURN TO 1963

It's all in the detail for Paul Dunn, who relished a new challenge with his first layout build, where operationally authenticity was high up the list of priorities.



LAYOUT I N I BRAUGHING & STANDON

raughing and Standon stations were selected for my layout build as they formed part of a local branch line that once snaked through the East Hertfordshire countryside (The Buntingford Branch), which I only discovered had existed purely by chance when viewing a property to purchase back in 2009.

I was intrigued to find out more, and whereupon found a local railway history group that had their own N gauge end-to-end layout depicting two other stations of the branch line, Westmill and the terminus at Buntingford. I'd also managed to walk the old track bed twice, with prior special permission, naturally, and gained access to the local railway history group's vast collection of photographs. It was that combination of historical interest and modelling enjoyment that set the 'layout building' wheels in motion. I'd never tackled such a project before, what on earth was I thinking – this was to be, and still is, my first-ever layout.

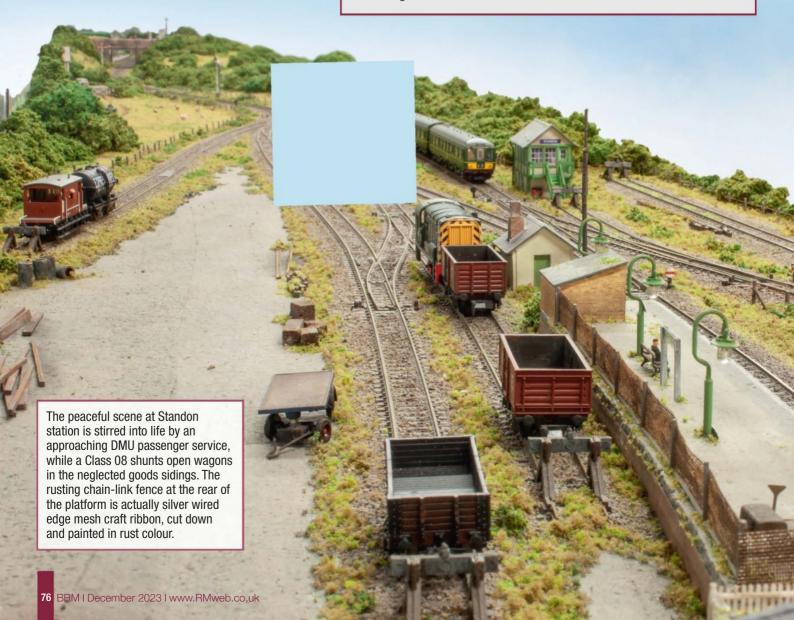
'Braughing & Standon' is based on real stations on 'The Buntingford Branch' during the 1963-1964 period, a short time before its final closure. Fortunately, resources are plentiful via the Buntingford Railway & Local History Society, who have a vast collection of photos, cine movies, trackplans and actual artefacts to draw upon. Particularly useful is the fact that Braughing station buildings still exist in most of their

Goods & shunting

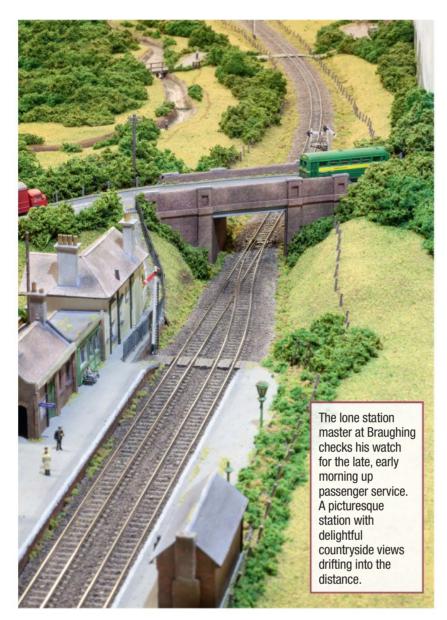
The rolling stock primarily used is Graham Farish with a few Peco wagons. The locomotives and wagons have all been selected to match, wherever possible, those that ran on the branch line during the early-1960s.

Goods wagons like fruit vans, ventilated box, open plank, were all typical, as was a 3 car Derby/Rolls Royce DMU in Green livery, depicted on my layout by a Class 108, all of which run on my layout. The lastmentioned has also been customised to depict its real head code 25, specific to the Buntingford branch, and has had its driver steps neatly removed to allow for closer alignment to the curved platform at Standon station. Goods and shunting operations required some compromises as the real branch line ran B.T.H/Paxman Type 1 Bo-Bo (BR Green Class 15) locomotives. As these are not available in N gauge, I chose a BR Green Class 20 instead, along with a later and non-prototypical BR Blue Class 20, which are a very close match. I also occasionally run an early Farish Class 8 shunter (in BR green) although these were never used, to my knowledge, on the actual branch line. Weathering the rolling stock is one of the last tasks I still need to complete this coming winter – fingers crossed I do a decent job!

I do not run any specific timetable as my layout is based on a real branch line during its final year before passenger service ceased. As such, I try to depict a sleepy, rural branch line with its under-utilised passenger service, interspersed with diminished goods traffic and periodic siding operation. The aim is to mimic a 'limited timetable with various unscheduled and ad-hoc operations', which one can imagine was very typical of many branch lines in the 1960s before the 'Beeching axe' fell.



BRAUGHING & STANDON I N I LAYOUT



glory, including platform structures, but as a private residence – owned by the grandson of the last station master before the line closed. Having access to such a resource pool and knowledge base allowed me to depict (as accurately as possible) the stations, the line, the landscape and supporting structures and help authentically capture the look and feel of a decaying and run-down branch line. Hopefully, those who see the layout will come to the same conclusion.

The original idea behind the layout was to build an extension of where the current 'Buntingford to Westmill' N gauge layout left off, owned and operated by the Buntingford Railway & Local History Society. My replica of the Braughing to Standon section of the branch line would also be an 'end to end' style, consisting of four connecting modules for both easy storage and transportation to exhibitions.

Operationally, I wanted a simple back and forth passenger traffic service and simulate various goods movements both along the main branch line and within the small sidings that existed in Braughing and Standon stations. Basically, I wanted to recreate as much of the original section of the branch line as possible yet retain a sense of rural space; prototypically accurate.

Overcoming challenges

Constructing 'Braughing & Standon' presented many new and daunting challenges. Firstly, there was a fear of really messing things up, especially when one is quite a perfectionist. Fortunately, I'm pretty practically minded and can turn my hand to most things so this at least was a positive.

A serious challenge was going to be soldering, given that I had never ever been able to solder a single thing properly. Much research ensued into the technique and resulted in my old soldering iron being thrown out and replaced with a Hakko FX-888D. Much practice was



LAYOUT I N I BRAUGHING & STANDON

needed until my confidence and technique improved to the required standard – I'm happy to report that every track feed, control panel connection, and even my own hand-built 15-pin DSub Connectors (to provide constant power across the connecting layout baseboard modules) were soldered flawlessly and with great satisfaction.

The electrical aspect of the layout was the most scary as I had no real knowledge of how the circuitry or connectivity worked, or how potentially complex it could be under the baseboard and control panels (I have two on the layout). In short, I had an awful lot of help from Trevor Gibbs who is based in Australia and a member of yourmodelrailway.net forum, and as a result, I eventually managed to complete all the electrics with few issues. A key aspect of my layout build was to record and document everything; especially important for the track power and point wiring connections. In order to better accomplish this, I made sure it was (a) very neatly arranged and (b) numbered. Perhaps it's just me, but I feel having



Three of the original brick road bridges spanning the old Buntingford branch still exist, including this one at Braughing. The real bridge was constructed using black engineering bricks, but online printed paper versions lacked the quality I desired. In hindsight, I should have photographed the original brickwork, scaled and printed it.

CI knew the detail would be the making of this layout, so a lot of time was spent on adding weeds and moss to areas that would naturally occur on a neglected 1960s branch line.



BRAUGHING & STANDON I N I LAYOUT

My favourite scratch building is the Braughing ticket office and waiting room. A lot of time was spent capturing as much of the actual character of the building as possible; even the tiny posters depicting a BR timetable and 'Goods Yard Closure' are specific to the Buntingford Branch... if you have a magnifying glass handy!

such reference documents and supporting images not only helps with any future troubleshooting issues, but will also help a future family member, or new owner understand how it all hangs together.

Keeping the layout operationally authentic was also important, so I opted for DC operation as this feels more 'hands-on' in my view. Space to construct such a narrow length of layout also suited as it would fit nicely into my current double-length garage.

Authentic scenery

Every building is scratch-built to match those of the original branch line and surrounding structures; as such, they are unique to my layout. The availability of detailed photographs, and various remaining structures, meant dimensions could be calculated and scaled down very accurately for N gauge. The construction process was pretty much the same for each building or structure, built from various thicknesses of card, balsa chimney stacks, printed paper for brick, slate and wood effects and printed window panes on glossy computer



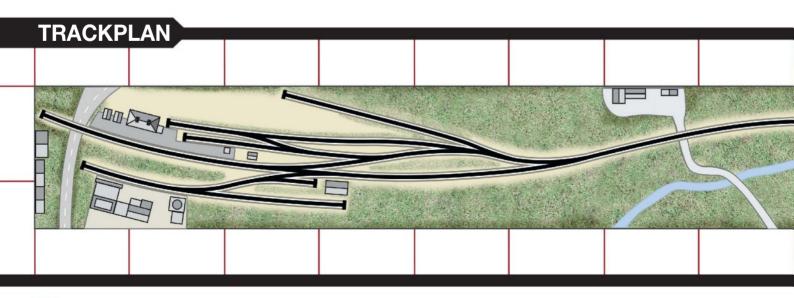
LAYOUT I N I BRAUGHING & STANDON



LEFT: Standon station single platform, looking towards the old goods and coal yard siding entrance. The outside gent's toilet and tired-looking (and deliberately wonky) picket fence gates were typical of the period modelled, but the commercially available swan neck platform light lamps are not quite scaled right.



LEFT: A rare flurry of activity for 1963 Braughing, as the morning Class 20 goods service passes the down passenger DMU held in the station platform loop.



BRAUGHING & STANDON I N I LAYOUT

BELOW: A scene at Standon that is full of character. Despite the detail, it gives the impression that nothing much is actually going on in this run-down branch station. It was from this angle that Standon featured briefly in the 1959 film 'Operation Bullshine', whereas Braughing featured much more prominently.

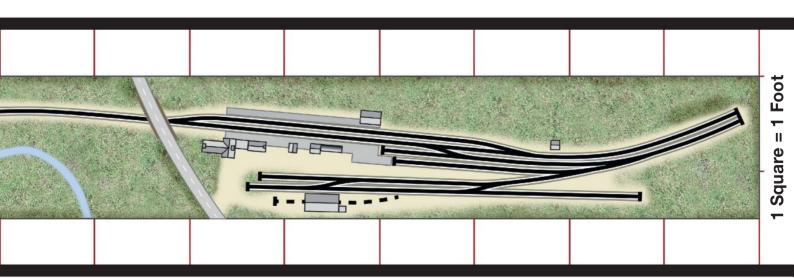
paper – a neat technique to show the sheen of windows and also alter the window pane shades.

Several are low-relief buildings, like the farmhouse, pub and industrial warehouses, where space was limited and even the flour mill had to be reshaped slightly to fit. Constructing all 29 structures was indeed time-consuming, but once weathered and detailed it was extremely satisfying to see them finally come to life, looking very much like the real thing.

A layout looks like a shell even though the track is operating, the landscape is shaped, structures are added and the backscene is in place, but it finally starts to come to life once the scenic work begins. For me, the scenery slowly being added was the most pleasurable aspect of the construction. Again, I tried to stay true to the actual landscape, scenery and overgrown areas of the branch line, as depicted in research photos and cine footage. I also kept it simple and yet true to nature, avoiding uniform foliage and blending it nicely into the photographic backscene wherever possible. In the main, I used a mix of Woodland Scenics grasses/turfs and WWS dark green lichen for everything, mixing up various blends of colours to suit field cover, and applying the same glued to lichen for tree and hedgerow variation.

That said, there isn't a single real tree anywhere on the layout – it's all different clumps of lichen giving the impression of trees and wooded areas. With the





LAYOUT I N I BRAUGHING & STANDON



scenery, I knew the detail would be the making of this layout, so a lot of time was spent on adding weeds and moss to areas that would naturally occur on a neglected 1960s branch line.

Reflection

What I'm particularly pleased with is the stations. The layout is based on actual stations that once existed, so I was adamant they must look accurate. As such, they had to be scratch-built and not modified commercially available products. Never attempting scratch-building in such a small scale before, it gives me the greatest pleasure to have completely constructed every building and structure on the layout entirely from card, printed paper, odds and ends, etc., to achieve the highest standard of accuracy possible. The ultimate (and scariest) test was to post on the Buntingford Railway Appreciation FB page some images of the completed stations and their forecourts to gauge feedback from those who know and knew the line from childhood. Luckily, all the feedback has been very positive, which is fantastic and very, very humbling.

If I had some tips to pass on to anyone thinking of building a first-time layout would be these.

Planning - do not rush into it and research everything you can, also taking into account the time, effort and cost of such a project. An obvious cliché but starting from a well-planned and designed layout will pay dividends in the long run.

Patience – layouts built from scratch are going to take time, so don't be too eager to move onto tasks too quickly, ie. take a step back to review what you've done so far, allow glue and paints time to dry thoroughly, and resist any shortcuts.

About the modeller

Name: Paul Dunn

Name of your first layout: Braughing &

Favourite era/region: Era 5 & 6, BR Eastern

Region

Favourite locomotive: British Rail Class 20 My learning curve from other modellers and resources has been nothing short of massive - every element of building a layout from scratch had to be researched and learnt. Fortunately, these days, there is a wealth of online help out there in the shape of forums, YouTube, clubs, and these proved to be essential to achieve the results I planned for, but never truly believed I would. The by-product of building my 'Braughing & Standon' layout has been a notable improved proficiency in woodwork, DC electronics, soldering and scenic landscaping, to name but a few. Key modelling inspiration for my layout construction has been the fantastic advice from the folks on yourmodelrailway. net forum, especially Trevor Gibbs. I also drew upon Brian Lambert's well-known website and Richard Warren (Everard Junction) and Luke Towan (both on YouTube channels) for techniques and ideas.

If I had to pick one inspiring 'go to' layout it would have to be 'Ambleton Vale', a superb layout by Ray Taylor and Anna Bass. I admit to being totally biased as this layout mirrors my own in various aspects - N gauge, endto-end and a specific attention to detail.

ABOVE: The once busy sidings lay almost dormant as the down passenger service leaves Standon, passing grazing sheep that now outnumber paying customers.

ABOVE RIGHT:

The B1368 road bridge at Braughing. Getting the tarmac colour just right was a real trial and error process, as I was not happy with the off-the-shelf offerings. It took many attempts, but I finally settled on my own blend of acrylic paints to get the main 'worn tarmac' tone and then added 'dry brush' shadings of a slightly darker mix.

BRAUGHING & STANDON I N I LAYOUT

BELOW: Another very scenic layout image.
A BR Blue Class 20 and its rake of empty wagons trundles past Standon signal box. Building both signal boxes took time, patience and a steady hand, especially the tiny balsa-made steps and veranda.

from other modellers and resources has been nothing short of massive.

Courage – during my construction, I was frequently guilty of overthinking tasks and delayed starting them for up to a week or two, fearful I would mess things up, ie. ballasting track, weathering rolling stock, creating a small river. Yes, some things did not go to plan but have the courage to 'go for it' knowing that most things can be easily rectified.

In hindsight, there are various technical aspects of my layout build I would possibly do differently – incorporate a hidden fiddle yard, construct the desired baseboard trestles at the beginning and not at the end of the project and give more consideration to the benefits of DCC in terms of sound. I have no regrets about any of these aspects but one practical difference I wished I'd have made was to join a local model railway club first. Despite the wealth of online knowledge and videos available (of which most is extremely good), there is, in my view, no substitution for talking to seasoned modellers face to face and gaining 'hands on' experience in every aspect required.

In the near future, I plan to add a small fiddle yard to the Standon end of the layout, which will allow both the DMU passenger service and Class 20 goods service to be parked up in sequence and give the impression of a returning up and down service along the branch line's single track. The layout has its own website (https://braughingstandon-railwaylayout.uk) that contains many more recent images, construction details and contact information. I am actively looking to start exhibiting Braughing & Standon from January 2024 onwards and welcome any booking enquiries from show organisers. At the moment, I am mulling over a possible new N gauge layout; a much smaller one, operating DCC and perhaps based on an Eastern Era 6 scene from a closed line in East Anglia or Essex.



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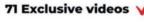
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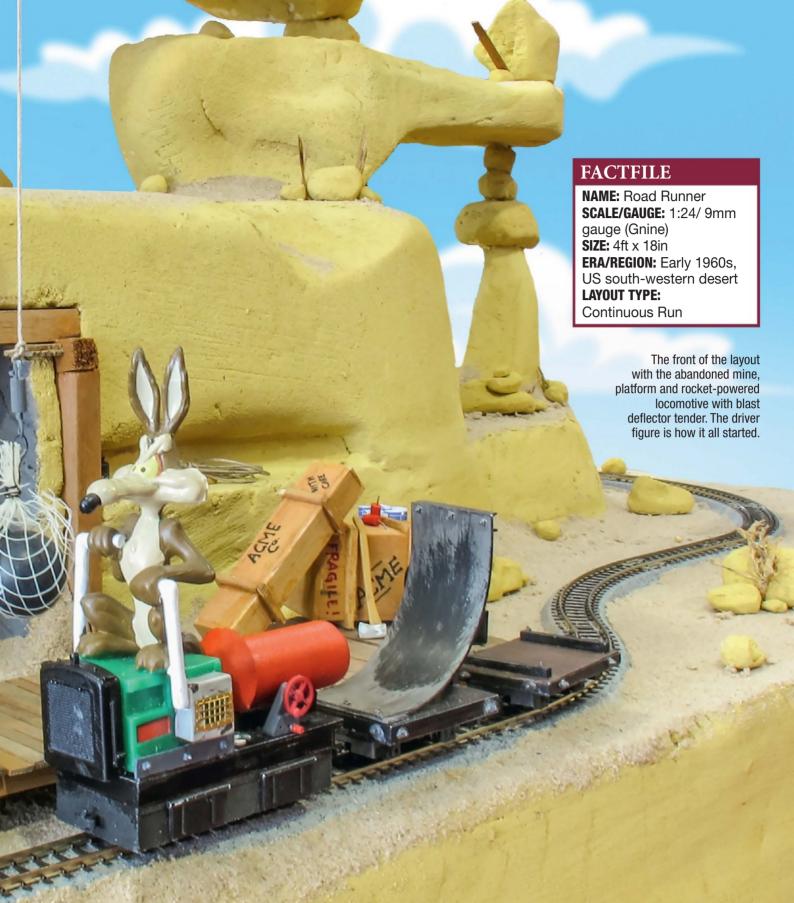
COMING

ESP aegis









ROAD RUNNER

Not a layout for rivet counters, but mostly true to the source material - the fun side of the hobby is fully explored in Les Conn's latest creation.

Words: Les Conn Photography: Phil Parker

LAYOUT I G-9 I ROAD RUNNER



his layout came about due to the purchase years ago of a Wile E. Coyote keyring and a Road Runner plastic figure, with Wile E. sitting on a machine that fired golf balls. I thought that he would look good driving a locomotive, but the idea went nowhere for a good few years.

I was an armchair modeller for years when I came upon the sadly now-gone Gnatterbox online forum for Gn15 modelling. Gn15 is 1:24, or thereabouts, scale models on 16.5mm track, representing 15in minimal gauge railways and the even dafter Gnine - 1:24 scale, 9mm track, 8 1/2in "real life" gauge. The seed was sown for our first layout, even though Wile E. Coyote, as far as I know, was only ever hit by a train and never drove one. It was designed and built for exhibition from the outset – lofty ambitions for a first layout.

I found a piece of plywood in my wood stash, and built a base under it using timber from a recycled bed frame found dumped. I left a gap at one end for a thin plywood panel to take the connectors for the controls and for the input for the sound effects.

The wind-eroded landscape, reminiscent of an Arizona-type desert, was made by both of us from carved Celotex insulation board, which is very easy to shape once the silver backing paper is removed. This idea came from studying US layout builders who use extruded foam extensively as a lightweight landscaping

material. It's usually free as off-cuts from local skips, if you ask nicely, as it's used as wall insulation, and large sheets are cut down to fit, with the smaller bits dumped.

The more delicate parts of the structure are held together with internal florist's wire armatures and foam-safe glue. Once complete, the whole thing was painted with emulsion and the flat bits covered in play sand to represent the desert landscape. The cacti are from Woodland Scenics and these, and the other bits of sparse vegetation including dried local lichen and grasses, were added by Leanne, my wife, who has a real eye for detail. I make things work and she makes them look good.

The Road Runner bird was added to the very top of the layout, where he can keep a good eye on things.

ACME Trains

The track is Tomix N gauge sectional track, which comes pre-ballasted and also has nice tight curves, which we needed with an 18in wide baseboard. As I'd not laid track in far too many years, this was a good system to start with and, as the entire layout is based on a cartoon, it doesn't seem to matter that the sleepers are far too small and close together. The track was stuck to the 2in foam base, which covered the plywood with caulk before the rest of the scenery was added to allow testing and wiring.

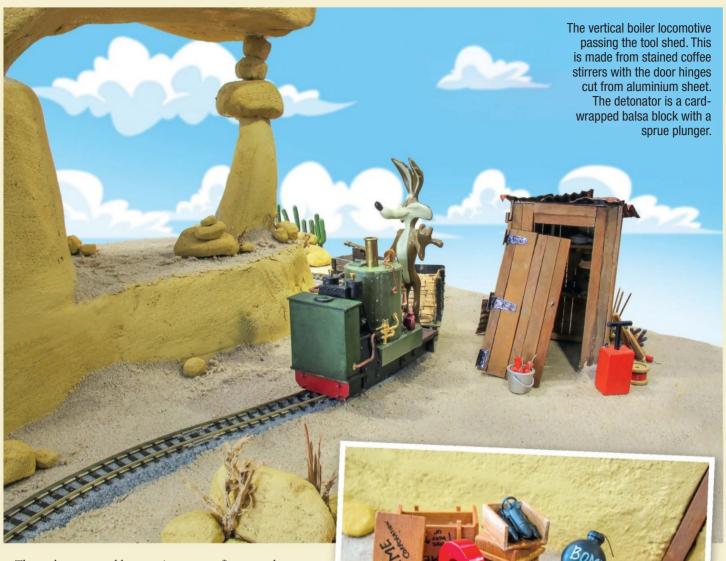
ABOVE: The overall layout showing the crane and bomb chute – ending above some free bird seed (dried couscous). The smaller scenic bits can be changed around.

RIGHT: The platform with a variety of ACME Corp. products, including bombs, a giant magnet, and, of course, lots of TNT.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

The ACME giant mouse trap is made on a balsa base with clock parts and bird seed bait. When asked, "does it work?" the answer is "put your finger on it and see".

ROAD RUNNER | G-9 | LAYOUT



The rocket-powered locomotive was my first scratchbuilt effort. The Wile E. Coyote figure had the golf ball lobbing arm removed, leaving the two control levers and a large square base. I used a Kato 11-103 chassis as motive power and built a basic box for it to attach to. The driver figure was fitted to the front and a rocket engine made of copper pipe with a paper cap added behind him with some further details added from the spares box.

This engine has since had a rebuild and an upgrade to a Kato 11-109 chassis for smoother running, as the 11-103 was very tired after prolonged use. More detail was also added at this time.

The vertical boiler locomotive was originally for another - currently stalled - Gnine project called the Splitfoot Mine, but it seemed appropriate to add another Wile E. Coyote figure as the driver instead of the intended miner. This one also runs on a Kato 11-109 chassis and is scratch-built from styrene sheet, some Airfix Pug bits, coffee stirrers and cut-up matches for the tender sides and load, with detail parts from Wiseman Model Services in the US, stripped mains wire (also ex-skip) to act as copper piping and also some bits made by me.

Rolling stock is built from styrene and coffee stirrers and runs on both 3D-printed (via Ebay) 9mm gauge chassis. There are four two-plank wagons, an ore car



LAYOUT I G-9 I ROAD RUNNER



and a mobile missile launcher in the stock roster. The missiles are painted nails from a nail gun belt (found in a skip when extracting Celotex).

The couplers are small staples that drop into holes in the couplers to prevent too close coupling and derailments on the curvy sections. We tried Bemo-type loop and hook couplers, but they caused too many problems on the tight curves.

Various loads are available for the open wagons, such as "bombs" (small Christmas tree decorations with the shiny surface sanded off and painted black), various crates, pipe bombs, a small cannon and assorted springs and scrap metal.

The details

There are only two buildings to speak of - the platform at the mine entrance right at the front of the layout and a small shed to the right-hand side. These were made from stained coffee stirrers and balsa wood. The platform has a removable collection of ACME crates, a giant magnet and other bits and bobs to help in catching the elusive Road Runner. Our aim would be to have these items interchangeable to keep it interesting. There are also multiple sticks of the notorious TNT scattered about the scene, created from painted fine dowel rod and fuse wire.

LES'S 5 TOP TIPS

- Don't do what I did and think about building a layout for years without doing anything.
- Consider narrow gauge if you want to build a might-have-been railway or something totally fictional. We've made several layouts since 'Road Runner', all set in their own parallel, but a couple of universes over to ours where 20th Century history is somewhat different (the Martian War of 1915 - 1917 for one) and 15" gauge and narrower railways are the norm.
- Think outside the box when it comes to modelling materials and don't be afraid to look at military, sci-fi modelling and other types of modelling for ideas and techniques.
- Don't be afraid, as I was for years, of scratch-building. Styrene, coffee stirrers and glue are cheap and no one needs to see your first creations if you don't want to show them (nobody will ever see mine). Junk boxes under trade stalls are your best friend for chassis and underframes.
- Join a forum such as RMweb or NGRM Online for help and advice. Most people don't bite and are glad to help.

The locomotive and tender are scratchbuilt out of odds and ends, and the wagons have a 3D-printed chassis, a styrene sandwich base with lead inside for weight and coffee stirrer sides.

The corrugated iron roof of the shed is made from the aluminium bottom of a baking tray, cut out and run through a paper crimper to make it wavy, then cut to scale size and painted.

There are removable and interchangeable pieces, such as a giant mousetrap, trebuchet and a rocket launch glider with TNT bombs, all made by the ACME Corporation.

Controlling Road Runner

The layout is DC-controlled. The Tomix track system incorporates a short straight track with pre-attached power feed wires; these are very discreet and pass through a small tube set into the foam base and through a hole in the ply baseboard. They then connect to a four-pin XLR socket mounted in a panel at one end of the layout. This, in turn, connects to the "ACME Mk5(L) Guidance & Control System".

This is a plywood box with the sides and top-edged in balsa strip, with an Ebay 12v PWM motor controller regulating speed. Direction is controlled by a Bakelite light switch, which turns a relay on and off to reverse the track polarity with a lovely "sproing" noise. We've never had a problem with running or motor heating over many hours of running, mainly at exhibitions.

There is also a small, stock knife switch connected to an ex-Sterling bomber green light from a late uncle's stash, which has no purpose except to light up.

Power - 16v AC & 12v DC, both fused for a 1 amp current draw, is supplied to the layout by a five-pin XLR cable, which comes from the Mighty Command Box of Power that turns the main electricity into more railwayfriendly voltages that could power four small layouts at once. This was built by me, is regularly tested for electrical safety and lives on the floor out of the road.

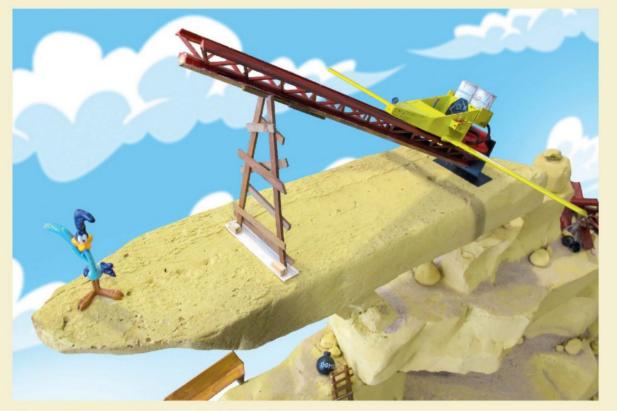
There are two ex-PC speakers fitted to the front, inside edge of the layout base. These are powered by



a small amplifier mounted in the end control board that takes a stereo input from an mp3 player, which has a desert wind sound playing on a loop with the odd "meep meep" added at various intervals. This adds to the overall effect and raises a smile from those old enough to remember the cartoons.

There's not much to running this layout. The rocketpowered locomotive runs clockwise and the vertical boiler one anti-clockwise with two or three wagons in tow. Once the mechanisms have warmed up and a good not-too-slow, not-too-fast speed is set, we usually change both the train and direction every hour. We then have plenty of time to chat with visitors and drink show coffee.

ABOVE: The controller is a simple ply box edged in balsa with an Ebay PWM DC controller and a relay to control direction. The knife switch has no purpose except to turn the green light on and off.



LEFT: The Road Runner bird stands at the top of the layout, keeping a good eye on the activity below, beside the launch ramp for the rocket-launched glider/bomber.

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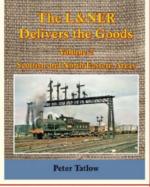
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RAILWAYS, SLATE QUARRIES and TRAMWAYS of BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

Dave Southern and Paul Lawton

Written by two authors with extensive knowledge of slate quarries and the Blaenau Ffestiniog area, this book surveys the network of railways and transways that were built to extract the slate and then to transport it onwards to its markets, where it 'roofed the world'. Slate created Blaenau Ffestiniog, turning it into one of the most important towns in North Wales and though the industry has largely gone, its legacy lives on, not only in the slate tips that dominate the skyline but also in the surviving railways that add to the town's prosperity today. The book goes beyond the geographical confines of Blaenau Ffestiniog, allowing the authors to devote separate sections to each of the major quarries that had a significant tramway system. The tramways, and what remained of them in later years, together with the three major railways that slate attracted to the town are fully illustrated, with pictures that for the most part are previously unpublished.

192 pages, colour throughout, 215 x 275mm, gloss art, laminated board covers.

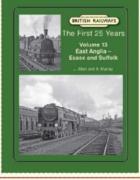
ISBN: 9781915069 31 3. Price £35.00 + £4 p&p

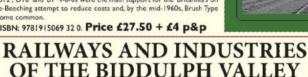
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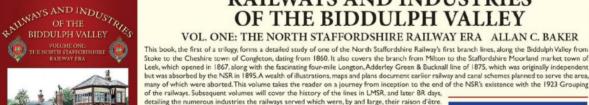
Volume 13: East Anglia - Essex and Suffolk

This volume covers the former GER lines in the southern half of East Anglia, concentrating on Essex and Suffolk, with short incursions over the border into Norfolk and Cambridgeshire to complete the routes. Starting out from Romford, places visited include Shenfield, Southend, Colchester, Witham, Maldon, Braintree, Kelvedon, Toliesbury, Clacton-on-Sea, Walton-on-the-Naze, Brightlingsea, Manningtree, Parkeston Coichester, Witham, Maldon, Braintree, Kelvedon, Tollesbury, Clacton-on-Sea, Walton-on-the-Naze, Brightlingsea, Manningtree, Parkeston Quay, Harwick, Ipswich (including the shed and docks), Felixstowe, Beccles, Lowestoft, Yarmuch, Leiston, Aldeburgh, Cambridge, Stowmarket, Bury St. Edmunds, Newmarket, Marks Tey, Haverhill, Bartlow, Saffron Walden, Audley End and Mildenhall branch back into Suffolk. Prenationalisation motive power continued into the early 1950s with ex-GER and L&NER designs predominating although a few intruders appeared in the shape of the NER (55) 0-4-4Ts and GNR (121' 4-4-15. However, the '£4' 2-4-0s, the '†5' and '†6' 2-4-4Ts and the '|15' 0-6' os were predominant on the secondary and branch lines until the mid-1950s and 'B12', 'D16' and 'B1' 4-6-0s were the main support for the 'Britannia's on the main lines. Railbuses and Lightweight DMUs were introduced in a pre-Beeching attempt to reduce costs and, by the mid-1960s, Brush Type '2', English Electric Type '3' diesel-electrics and later Class '47's would become con

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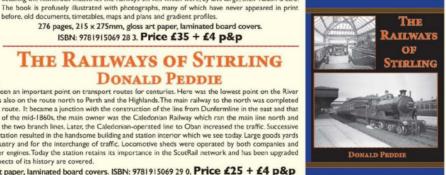


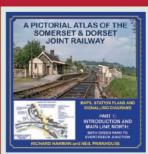
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THE RAILWAYS OF STIRLING DONALD PEDDIE

The ancient burgh – now city – of Stirling has been an important point on transport routes for centuries. Here was the lowest point on the River Forth which could be crossed by a bridge. It was also on the route north to Perth and the Highlands. The main railway to the north was completed in the late. 1840s and Stirling was naturally on its route. It became a junction with the construction of the line from Dunfermline in the east and that to Balloch in the west. After the amalgamations of the mid-1860s, the main owner was the Caledonian Railway which ran the main line north and south, with the North British Railway operating the two branch lines. Later, the Caledonian-operated line to Oban increased the traffic. Successive improvements in the layout and facilities at the station resulted in the handsome building and station interior which we see today, Large goods yards were provided both for the extensive local industry and for the interchange of traffic. Locomotive sheds were operated by both companies and these housed an eclectic mix of older and newer engines. Today the station retains its importance in the ScotRail network and has been upgraded to meet modern traffic requirements and all aspects of its history are covered.

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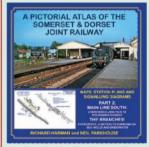
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Images of Pete Watermans Milton Keynes Station for Making Tracks 3, extensively controlled by MegaPoints System2.



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HE LATEST HEADLIN

Quadruple exclusives for KMRC

Kernow Model Rail Centre has shared details of four new exclusive models commissioned for its retail business.

The first is a Class 59/0 59002 Alan J Day in Aggregate Industries and 30-year branding livery locomotive in OO gauge. Manufactured by Dapol, the new model will have a heavy die-cast chassis with all-wheel pick-up, NEM coupling pockets, printed nameplates with etched versions supplied, and many separately-applied detail parts. Expected to be available early next year, prices cost as follows; £169.99 (DCC ready), £199.99 (DCC-fitted), £299.99 (DCC exhaust smoke and sound-fitted).

The second new item released is the JNA-T bogie aggregate hoppers in OO manufactured by Revolution Trains. Also expected to arrive early next year, prices start at £48.95. First produced for KMRC by Revolution Trains back in 2019, the models reportedly sold out in 12 months. Models feature NEM couplings, RP25 wheelsets and many separatelyapplied detail parts. As with the previous batch, one version has a battery-operated (battery hidden underneath a false floor) working flashing tail lamp.

Produced for KMRC by Heljan, the third model is based on its revised and updated Class 86 models, which feature LED lighting, a detailed underframe, wire handrails and is DCC sound-ready with a 21-pin DCC interface. Due for release halfway through 2024, the model depicts Class 86/4 86402 in BR blue and prices are expected to be £229.99.

The final new model to be revealed is the Class 08645 St Piran in Kernow flag livery. The Kernow Model Rail Centre Exclusive detailed model in O gauge is being produced by Dapol. The model features a five-pole motor with die-cast chassis and allwheel pickup. The cab and running lights are independently controllable. Expected to arrive in spring next year, the prices for the new model are as follows: £225.00 or £399.99 DCC sound-fitted.



Class 59/0 59002 Alan J Day in Aggregate Industries and 30-year branding livery





Decorated samples of BRCW Class 104 DMUs arrive

Helian has announced the arrival of the first factory-decorated samples of the OO gauge BRCW Class 104 DMUs.

As always, these are only initial pre-production deco samples subject to modification and improvement (some with missing parts), but they offer a teaser of how these hotly anticipated models will look. So far, Helian has received two BR Green sets and a BR Blue 'Blackpool' 3-car set, but the other samples are expected to follow soon.

According to Heljan, the '104s' are among the most complex models the model maker has ever developed, with a huge range of detail variations to cab ends, roofs, interiors, body details and more.

In response to demand. Helian has already increased the production quantities once and some liveries are close to being sold out again before they've even left the factory! Contact your local stockist before they're all gone!



Bachmann reveals two new 009 models

Bachmann has announced two new OO9 Scale models of the Mainline Hunslet Locomotives Linda and Blanche as part of its Bachmann Narrow Gauge range.

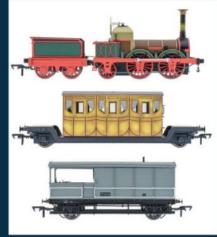
Affectionately known as the Ladies, Linda and Blanche were built for the Penrhyn Quarry Railway in 1893 and served until the railway closed in 1962. The following year, both were purchased by the Ffestiniog Railway and soon the 0-4-0 tank engines were fitted with tenders to increase their fuel capacity. Later fitted with front pony wheels, becoming 2-4-0STTs (2-4-0 Saddle Tank with Tender), the pair was converted to oil firing in the early 1970s, reverting to coal firing in 2013 (Linda) and 2014 (Blanche). The new Bachmann Narrow Gauge models depict the Ladies in their current condition, as coal-firing locomotives decorated in the Ffestiniog Railway lined green livery.

Each model is available in standard format (item No. 391-135 - Linda / 391-136 - Blanche) or with sound fitted (391-135SF/136SF) and with recommended retail prices of £229.95 (391-135/136) and £329.95 (391-135SF/136SF).

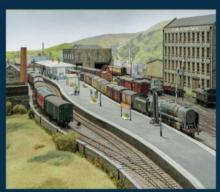


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LISTEN: Alongside our review of the box set in this issue, we take a look and listen to the DCC sound functions of the new Titfield Thunderbolt.



TAKE A TOUR: The talented and well-regarded Roger Sunderland shows us around his new home layout, 'Stanicliffe', based on West Yorkshire.



INTERVIEW: We speak with Paul Appleton about what visitors can expect from the Great British Model Railway Show on October 28th.



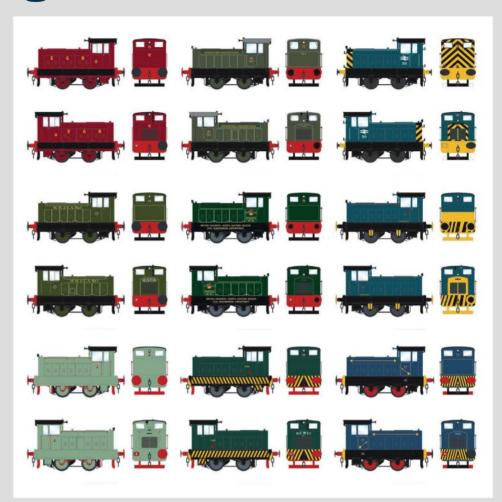
Accurascale announces first O gauge locomotive

Accurascale has announced that the Ruston And Hornsby 88DS diesel mechanical shunter will be its first O gauge locomotive. This release marks a return to O gauge by Accurascale, who had previously released the BR 24.5 Ton HUO Hopper wagon four years ago.

The announcement was made at the 2023 "Great Electric Train Show" (GETS) at the Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes, with a fully tooled sample on display on the Accurascale stand.

A model the team at Accurascale had begun work on in the days before the pandemic, the Ruston 88DS has been an exciting project for Accurascale as they look to further develop their range in O gauge. Following extensive surveys of prototype subjects, plus extensive archive research and development, tooling was initiated following plotting out of the various detail differences to cover the major variants. This process began earlier this year and the first tooling sample was received in late September.

A total of eight locomotives will make up the initial production run for Accurascale, featuring a variety of liveries. Tooling is already complete and testing of the prototype samples





is well underway. Accurascale will continue this testing process and then progress to decoration stage, before signing off for production.

Delivery is currently planned for early 2025. Both DC/DCC Ready and DCC Factory Sound fitted variants will be offered, with the latter making use of an ESU Loksound 5 decoder and Accurascale's own bespoke recordings of a real 80DS.

Prices will be £229.95 for the DC/DCC ready locomotive and £319.99 for the DCC sound-fitted loco. Future Accurascale O gauge locomotives will depend on the success of this locomotive as the team assesses the market.

Modellers can pre-order via Accurascale's network of local stockists, or direct for no money down via the Accurascale website.





Specification:

- Die-cast metal chassis, body frame and footplate, with plastic cab and engine panels. Target weight of 475g
- Scale length of 143.8mm over buffers, 54.85mm wide and height over cab of 70mm
- Wheelbase of 40.54mm, for all vehicles, allowing operation over a minimum radius of 1020mm (2nd radius set-track)
- Choice of metal 3-link, or screw couplings for prototypical coupling
- Brake blocks fitted and aligned with wheel centres for 0 Gauge, ensuring that they do not rub on wheel rims
- Single style of 21mm solid wheel, correctly profiled both on the inside and outside and chemically blackened, set in blackened brass bearings or contact strips and conforming to Accurascale standards of 29.2mm back-to-back, on 4.763mm diameter axles
- Fully detailed die-cast underframe with all cylinders, linkages and piping applied separately
- Eroded metal, plastic and wire detail parts, including (but not limited to) handrails, door handles, lamp brackets, brake gear, brake discs, draw gear, vents, louvres, radiator grilles and builders' plates
- Prism-free flush glazing
- Easily removable cab roof, to allow access to cab interior for customer detailing
- Sprung metal buffers, and draw hooks
- · Authentic livery, markings and numbers, achieved by use of part painting and pad printing
- Centrally mounted, best quality 5-pole skew-wound motor, with flywheel, driving both axles
- All-wheel pickup
- Helical gearbox for maximum performance and slow-speed running
- · Gearing arranged so the locomotive can achieve a scale maximum top speed of 15.4 mph (24.78kmh), with a load of 1.1kg
- DCC ready with PowerPack capacitor for uninterrupted power, or similar stayalive arrangement
- Designed around PluX22 ESU Decoders with easy access to decoder via removable bonnet
- Switchable shunting lights
- Full cab interior lighting, set at correct colour temperature
- Permanently fitted speakers

OO Gauge GWR Toplight Mainline City Coach update

Dapol has produced an all third, a composite and a third brake coach, which will be the perfect companion to the Dapol 61xx Prairie and has shared the latest images of the new models, which are due to arrive next month.

Due to the number of coaches being produced, Dapol has elected to split the production process into two. The first three sets (set numbers one, three & six) will be in shops towards the middle of November. Dapol is currently waiting for a confirmed date for the second half of the production run.

Specification:

- Injection moulded body with bolection window mouldings and frosted Toplight windows
- Separate metal door and commode handles
- Wire end hand rails and separately-applied end communication details
- Correct number of roof ventilators depending on the prototypical period being modelled
- Detailed chassis with vacuum tanks, battery boxes and brake linkages
- 9ft bogie bolster with diecast side frames and split axles for electrical pick-up
- Detailed interior with period-specific decorations being applied
- Kinematic couplings with NEM pockets, including special coupling bar
- Coaches capable of negotiating R2 radius curves
- Sprung metal buffers
- Internal lighting and directional tail lamp
- Optional DCC-fitted with a six-pin decoder such as the Dapol Imperium Five.
- Heavy Diecast chassis

You can now pre-order the new models from Dapol stockists, costing £64.80 DCC-ready. Read our detailed review in BRM January 2024.

Hattons: new 'Warwell' livery samples shown

Hattons Model Railways has shared photographs of decorated model samples for its second batch of models for 4mm:1ft scale from its 50T 'Warwell' tooling. Models are expected to arrive during Q2, 2024.

Running under its 'Originals' brand, eight new variations join its range for 'OO', comprising of War Department, British Railways and Ministry of Defence liveries, plus new variations that haven't been produced before.

The retailer commented. "This new run will feature all of the same features as our original award-winning 'Warwell' batches. We have now received decorated samples for most of the range. We are still awaiting a sample for (H4-WW-023) and hope to be able to share this as well in due course. Pre-ordering is essential to ensure we can fulfil your requirements."



Models are to retail at £25.00 each.



'Hot' new arrivals...

Scale Model Scenery has released a number of new products this month. Here are four that we found particularly interesting...

Industrial Pipe Bridge

A common sight around industrial manufacturing or processing sites. pipe bridges convey all manner of liquified or gaseous products from one zone to another, either for further processing, or distribution. For 4mm:1ft scale, at £8.99. Scale Model Scenery's Industrial Pipe Bridge kit could be used to cross a rail, road, stream, river, or canal, elevating pipes across, Useful for other scales, too...



Curtains and Blinds

At £2.99, this sheet of curtains and blinds for 7mm:1ft scale is designed to enhance model shops and housing. The two-sheet pack contains 47 pairs of assorted curtains and 15 blinds, all with light-coloured pleated linings and a small strip of colour down the edges to represent the seams. Some have tie-backs.





Utility Building/Plant Room

Retailing at £8.49, and based on a waterworks building close to its factory in Truro, Cornwall, this 4mm:1ft scale utility building could be a plant room or lineside building. Designed for industrial scenes, sewage works, processing plants, depots and larger industrial complexes, the building comes with a choice of weathered stretcher bond brick or a grev rendered wall (matching its KX094-OO Stoney's Workshop).



Autumn/Winter Bramble Patches

For 4mm:1ft scale, though equally useful for larger scales, too, these packs of 15 tufts are designed to represent bramble, or in 7mm:1ft scale, small thistle patches. For use on waste ground, embankments, or verges on an autumn or winter-themed layout. Patches are peeled from the backing paper and glued into place as required. Tufts are 6-8mm tall and 20mm (approx.) in width.



Hillman vehicles immortalised in N

N'Tastic Scale Models has revealed a new series of 3D-printed static road vehicles for 2mm:1ft scale/N gauge. Supplied unpainted, the vehicles share similar characteristics, being based around the 1965 'Hillman Imp' platform, with three variants released, and available to purchase from its website at £7.45 each, as follows:

1965 - Hillman Super Imp, including Police version, 1965 - Hillman Imp Californian 1965 - Hillman Imp Van, including AA Van with roof sign.



Table lamps for '00'

DCC Concepts' range of coach interior detailing packs offers modellers the opportunity to upgrade models old and new. Its 4mm:1ft scale table light packs (DML-MTL) are designed for the Mk. 3 coach, and were further highlighted this week by the manufacturer, retailing at £29.95 for a pack of 12.

Each (DML-MTL) pack comes complete with 12 Working Table Lamps, 12 1kΩ Resistors, 12 5kΩ Resistors, 12 10kΩ Resistors, 10 Spring Wheel Pick-ups, 750mm of self-adhesive 3mm copper tape, and 500mm of 32g decoder wire.



Heljan releases update on new Class 55

Helian has announced that its new Deltics are almost complete and will shortly be shipped to Europe. No fewer than 10 liveries will be available, covering standard BR blue machines, Finsbury Park's famous 'racehorses' with white cab windows, retro BR green D9000 and 55002 'KOYLI' and 'railtour specials'.

According to Heljan, the new models have been redesigned from the ground up, reshaped with an improved body, new details added and an upgraded chassis with the latest 'plug and play' DCC specification. New interior details and switchable lighting features are also part of the upgrade.

Delivery is expected in November/December 2023.





New Dapol signal EP samples arrive

Dapol has shared images of the engineering prototype (EP) samples of the new O Gauge GWR/BR ground signals, available to pre-order now at Dapol Stockists.

According to Dapol, the signals come with almost everything you need to set them up in the box, all you need to really do is hook up an appropriate power supply. For those not keen on soldering, there is a 2m plug-and-play extension cable (4A-000-014) available.

The signals are set to be available in the following liveries, with prices at £65 for single disk and £85 for twin disk.

7L-001-100 - Signal GWR Ground Signal Single Disk 7L-001-101 - Signal GWR Ground Signal Twin Disk 7L-005-100 - Signal BR Ground Signal Single Disk 7L-005-101 - Signal BR Ground Signal Twin Disk

Cavalex updates on PGA project for 'N'

Images of Cavalex Models' forthcoming 2mm:1ft scale twoaxle PGA hopper wagons have emerged in a new update released on its website. Made exclusively for retailer, Rails of Sheffield, models remain available to pre-order from the retailer, at £89.95 per three-pack.

Cavalex Models said, "From day one of starting Cavalex Models, the intention has always been to release all our OO gauge products in N gauge, so we are very excited that our first N gauge models will soon be arriving in the UK.

"Production of our PGA hopper wagons is complete, with the factory having packaged up the models ready for shipping to the UK. We are expecting the PGAs to arrive later this month, subject to shipping."



New custom-designed figures for 15XX

Osborn's Models has continued its trend of creating figure packs for new RTR locomotives with new arrivals for Rapido Trains, GWR 15xx 0-6-0ST for 4mm:1ft scale.

Designed and created in-house by the Bideford-based model retailer, the two packs available each contain a driver and fireman, and are a direct fit for the Rapido Trains model, requiring no alterations for fitment. Models are available unpainted (OSBF138) at £5.99, or painted (OSBF139) at £9.99.



Hornby expands 'The Beatles' range

To celebrate the success of The Beatles, Hornby has released a number of wagons inspired by album covers from the band. Priced at £21.99 each, the latest two to join the range include R60184, which celebrates the first two albums released by the Beatles 'Please Please Me' and 'With the Beatles', and RR60180 'A Hard Day's Night' wagon, which commemorates many things, including the musical comedy film starring the Beatles, the Beatles themed hotel in Liverpool, and an album containing the soundtrack of the film.











Hornby 'Turbomotives'



ne-offs' seem to be a growing trend with RTR manufacturers these days. A couple of years ago, Hornby produced the W1 (admittedly in two distinct guises), and we've had the likes of GT3, the Fell diesel mechanical and the forthcoming 'Big Bertha', not to mention most of the one-off diesel prototypes. Now we have Stanier's 'Turbomotive', offered from Hornby in two manifestations - as originally built and just prior to its rebuilding into a conventional reciprocating steam loco. Both are exceptional models.

The notion of a steam turbine-driven locomotive is very 'seductive' inasmuch as it offers several potential advantages over a reciprocating steam equivalent, not least the lack of hammer blow in motion (meaning less potential damage to track and bridges). It's also more efficient, but these advantages must be weighed against the greater complexity and initial constructional costs (over £20,000 compared with £11,675 for 6201). After Stanier introduced his first two 'Princess Royal' Class Pacifics onto the LMS

in 1933, it was decided to build the third in line as turbine-driven, though, because of the complexities, it did not appear until 1935. At first, 6200 (The Princess Royal) and 6201 (Princess Elizabeth) weren't quite 'right', but once the superheating on the boilers was sorted out, they realised their potential. 6202 (the 'Turbomotive') was built with a boiler of higher degree superheating and greater number of tubes, so it steamed well from the word go. The original boilers (including those improved) were domeless, but later boilers incorporated a dome. Throughout its life, 6202 carried both sorts. 'Turbomotive' settled down to work very well, equalling the work of its 'ordinary' siblings (of which 10 more were later built).

Raymond Lowey (the great contemporary American industrial designer) thought it a superb example of the 'British style' and, compared with some other steam turbinedriven types (the weird thing that ran on the L&Y, for instance), it was extremely goodlooking, especially in its full LMS crimson livery. It always had a double chimney in turbine form and always towed its nine-ton



A plastic coal load is supplied, and the cab roof ventilators can be moved



As supplied, the drawbar is in the 'long' position; the screw to adjust it also holds the rear of the loco's body in place.

REVIEWS



Has there ever been a more-detailed representation of a cab's interior? A crew is supplied as well.

coal capacity tender (its sisters later had 10-ton coal capacity tenders, largely because they often worked over longer distances than 6202, which tended to be confined to the Euston-Liverpool road).

Various modifications were carried out throughout its life, including an increase in size of the reverse turbine (on the offside) and the addition of large smoke deflectors (of unflattering shape). At the beginning of the War, it was withdrawn, but, because of the need for *every* loco, it was reinstated. Painted black during the War, it became BR's property in 1948 and eventually carried the attractive LNWR-style lined black livery.

Rebuilt as a conventional locomotive in 1952 (and named *Princess Anne*), as a blend of 'Princess Royal' and 'Princess Coronation' classes, it was wrecked beyond economical repair in the Harrow disaster of the same year, being scrapped a year or two later at Crewe Works.



Unusually, these days provision for DCC is in the loco, not the tender. The light-blanking sponge can be seen behind the buffer beam.

Hornby is not only to be congratulated on such a bold move as to produce a 'singular' locomotive RTR, but also for producing such a superlative pair of models. On checking every source in my 'library', both these locos are very, very accurate. Correctly, as 6202 'Turbomotive' in as-built form is equipped with a domeless boiler and smaller reversing turbine. Equally correctly, 46202, in its final BR manifestation, carries a domed boiler, larger reverse turbine and smoke deflectors. Attention to detail differences is incredible, with many separately-applied items. The buffers are all sprung (the front ones running in key-ways to prevent them rotating) and the cab roof ventilators can be moved from open to closed. Transparent cinder guards are attached between the cabside windows, and the cab doors are modelled as 'bent inwards' so as not to foul the tender front on tighter radius curves. Even the lifting flap at the front to regulate

air intake can be opened or closed (the loco usually ran with it open).

Livery application is exquisite in every aspect – perfect would not be an overstatement, with crisp application of numbers, brandings and, particularly, lining. Even the two different fonts (according to period) on the front numberplate are accurately represented. 46202 correctly carries a 5A (Crewe North) shedplate on her smokebox door. Look inside the cab, and all the fittings and dials are perfectly picked-out. There's even a firebox glow.

Performance-wise, this duo really excels. A powerful five-pole skew-wound motor gives more than adequate haulage ability, especially linked to the heavy (mainly die-cast) body. In fact, according to Hornby's literature, it's their heaviest loco yet! Running was exceptionally quiet and smooth through a mixture of hand-built and Peco trackwork.











From every angle, this is a superb model.

All the wheels are true-round, to RP25 profile and have consistent back-to-backs. They are actual models of 'Turbomotive's' wheels as well, not generic types. A twoposition drawbar is fitted - one 'long' position for 'train set' curves and one 'short' position for 'display purposes'. On my minimum 3' radius curves, 46202 had no trouble on the 'short' position setting. Provision for DCC-fitting is in the locomotive on these models, rather than in the tender (though there's still a connection between the two for tender pick-ups). Getting the body off presented no problem once I'd discovered that three screws need to be undone (not just two as suggested in the instructions!), and that Fig.8 refers to the loco body, not the tender!

I fitted the extra bits supplied on 46202, though the front shackle's peg needed filing down to fit its hole in the buffer beam. Not only that, the front steps wouldn't fit until I'd removed some of the black 'foam' surrounding the 'light conduits' - I assume this is to prevent light leaking? In fact, my

only criticism is the 'lighting' arrangement. Correctly, lamps are carried above each buffer (permanently-fixed).

Under power, they're lit, but they're much too bright (the real things were only lit by oil, after all). What's worse is that they turn red when running in reverse, though DCC might 'cure' this. There's also a lamp on the tender's rear, in the position for a stopping passenger train. This lights up red when the loco runs forward, which is daft. Why? Because a red light would only be seen if the loco were running forward, light engine, and then it would be above either the left- or right-hand buffer. It lights up white if the loco runs in reverse. However, this would only be (as mentioned) if 'Turbomotive' were pulling a Class B stopper – in reverse; highly unlikely! It would appear from the instructions that the rear lamp can be switched 'off' by tapping the tender sides. In my view, lighting like this arrangement is a bit of a gimmick, and, as such, unnecessary. However, is this what the market now demands? If so, I'm out of touch.

FACTFILE

Models:

LMS Princess Royal Class 'The Turbomotive' 4-6-2 No. 6202 BR Princess Royal Class 'The Turbomotive' 4-6-2 No. 46202 **Liveries:** LMS 6202 lined crimson and BR 46202 BR lined black **Price:** £266.49 - £312.99 (sound-

fitted versions) **Era:** 6202 - 1935-'36 46202 - 1948-'52

Construction: Diecast body and

chassis, plastic tender Weight: 589g

Minimum curves: Radius 2 Accessories: Scale front coupling, brake rigging, front steps, crew, extra

front lamp

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Superb livery application
- ✓ High quality of running
- ✓ Robust construction
- ✓ Accuracy of detail

In conclusion, this pair represents an outstanding addition to the RTR range of steam-outline locomotives in OO. Over 70 years ago, the progenitors of the current Hornby range, Rovex/Tri-ang, made a 'Princess Royal'. Who would have thought back then that such superb models as these latest 'Turbomotives' would one day be available? Thoroughly recommended, and rejoice in their excellence!











EFE Rail PBA/JIA 'Clay Tiger' & Andy York



FE Rail's N gauge wagon range continues to expand with a reduced-size version of Kernow MRC's 'Clay Tiger' wagon.

Thirty-five of the wagons were introduced in 1982 and decorated in English China Clay's white livery. The wagons were principally used for trainload flows from Cornwall to The Potteries and further used in Speedlink services with anything from a single wagon to Mossend and Markinch in Scotland. EFE Rail has produced four models in this livery; two pristine and two weathered with different numbering. The later ECC blue livery dates from the early 1990s, when the wagons were adapted for ferry and continental usage with tie hooks



There's a lot of detail to the ends, including pipes in the void between the chassis and hoppers.

and strengthened solebars and re-classed as JIA. It is in this guise, which lasted until withdrawal from service in 2004, that our review model can be seen; this is also available in two clean and two weathered versions.

While the main section of the body is of a simple style, with the cosmetic hinged top door to the hoppers, there is a substantial amount of detail to the ends of the tanks and the chassis-mounted air tanks, piping, walkways and handrails, which, although plastic, are perfectly serviceable in this scale. The lower bodysides feature the panelling and a wealth of printed information and the underside depicts the hopper discharge doors. The Y25 bogies are nicely done although the rotation was limited by a small protuberance from the chassis just to the right of the handbrake wheel on one side at the platform end; if this is a problem on a layout's curves, it could easily be trimmed away without substantially affecting the appearance. A degree of bowing was observed on the chassis, but this may be improved by slackening the recessed screws underneath.

The base decoration and lettering on the model is very good, but the weathering on these models is limited to a simple general dirt spray, unlike the more advanced finish of varied dirt and white clay deposits on the NACCO JIA model from 2022.

Overall, this is a very good model and reasonably priced at £44.95 with an additional £5 for the weathered versions.

FACTFILE

Models:

E87524 33 70 9382 069 ECC Blue, E87525 33 70 9382 059 ECC Blue, E87526 33 70 9382 073 ECC Blue [W], E87527 33 70 9382 075 ECC Blue [W], E87528 11601 ECC International White, E87529 11603 ECC International White, E87530 11606 ECC International White [W], E87531 11610 ECC International White [W] Era: 2016 - present **Construction:** Plastic body with diecast chassis frame Weight: 22g Minimum curves: Radius 2 (263mm)

WHAT WE LIKE

Accessories: n/a

- ✓ Base decoration
- ✓ Branding, numbering and detail decoration
- ✓ Finely-moulded details and additional parts to each end







Accurascale Class 37/6

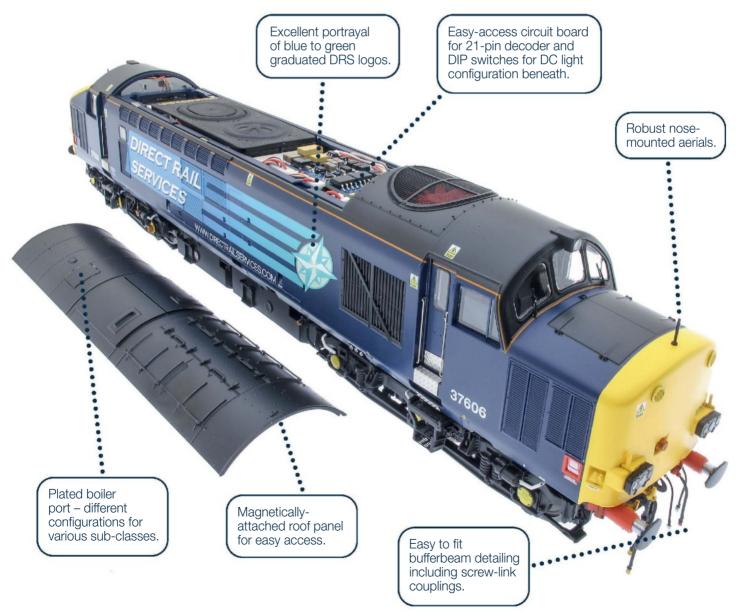
nitially conceived as locomotives for the Eurostar 'Nightstar' sleeper services, the Class 37/6 locomotives utilised former Class 50 bogies for faster running and are modelled by Accurascale in DRS and Europhoenix liveries with a distinctive style of flush-finished nose with WIPAC light clusters. Two models have been produced in

the early DRS livery, two in Compass livery, including our review sample of 37606 and 37609 in the later turquoise-flare DRS livery. Finally, there is 37608 in rail Operation Group's striking Europhoenix livery as Andromeda.

These models complete the first run of Class 37 models announced, but the second run of models, including early examples and Class 37/7, is now in production, with delivery anticipated by the middle of next year. Most of these are currently sold on pre-orders but some stockists do have availability.

Our review model of 37606 performed as well as all the previous models delivered this year, managing a load of 20 Mk.1 coaches capably, with plenty of sound to enjoy matching the wonderful running qualities.









The LED roof-mounted headlights and WIPAC cluster lights are nicely toned and not overly bright.



The Class 50-style cast bogies have many separately fitted parts, including etched bogie steps. There is a substantial amount of piping above the bogies to the central tanks.

FACTFILE

Models:

ACC231937608 37608 Andromeda Europhoenix / Rail Operations Group grev/ red/silver, ACC231637609 37609 DRS Compass, ACC231537606 37606 DRS Compass, ACC231437602 37602 DRS Compass, ACC231337607 37607 DRS early. ACC231237605DCC37605 DRS early

Era: 1994 – current

Price: DCC ready £169.99,

DCC Sound £259.99

Construction: Diecast chassis. plastic body with etched

detailing parts Weight: 690g

Minimum curves: Radius 2

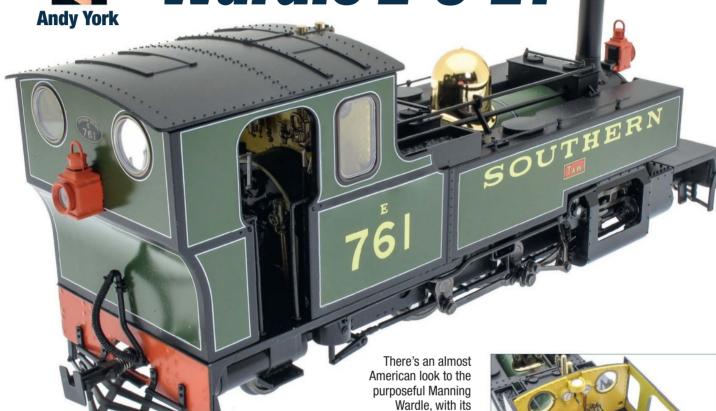
(438mm)

DCC socket: 21-pin MTX **Accessory pack:** Bufferbeam detailing, cosmetic screw-link couplings, snowploughs

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Livery application and sharpness of print
- ✓ Metal chequerplate to door kickplates
- ✓ Design of bogie securing chains
- ✓ Roof panel and handle detail
- ✓ Sprung buffers with detail to rear of buffer heads
- ✓ Plug and socket connections for tidilyrouted internal wiring
- ✓ Lighting colour and brightness levels
- ✓ A deep bass to engine sounds
- Value for money

Lionheart Lynton & **Barnstaple Manning** Wardle 2-6-2T



ionheart Trains, a Dapol brand, is the first major manufacturer to offer a ready-to-run model in 0-16.5, and what an absolute beauty it is.

Running for 19 miles in North Devon to 1ft 1112 in gauge, the Lynton and Barnstaple route has attracted many devotees with its initial three Manning Wardle locomotives, all named after three-letter Devon rivers, even though the line's life was relatively short from 1898 to 1935.

Lionheart has covered the life of the prototype from Exe in its original condition with the early cab and motion cover, with Yeo depicting the 1903-1913 condition with open motion, still with the early cab, and the final L&B Holly green-liveried loco is Taw, with the cut-back cab to improve visibility for the crew, giving a date range of 1913 to 1924. Each one

of the three locomotives is also produced in lined Maunsell green Southern Railway livery with the later cab style, spanning the period of the line's acquisition at Grouping through to the closure of the line in 1935.

cowcatchers, prominent lamps and styling.

Taking the model from its Lionheart box, you are immediately struck by the weight, impressive detail and fine finish. Sure, they're not cheap, starting from an RRP of £378.00, but you are getting what you pay for with a superb mechanism, including a five-pole skew-wound motor housed within the diecast tank, body and chassis, which delivers superbly smooth, quiet and impressive performance straight from the box, and capably managing a load of 12 4mm scale Mk.1 coaches - a strange but adequate way of assessing a 7mm scale model.



Quality is evident inside the cab, and look how tidy the glazing is!



Our review model features the cut back panels in front of the cab, which makes the fine detail, including brass whistles, more visible.





A note of caution should be given that the model has been designed to operate with a minimum curve radius of 2', necessitated by the full-length frames that restrict the movement of the front and rear pony trucks. The motion of narrow gauge locomotives often appeared dominated by the width of the body, but the Joy valve gear is all there and it's superb. The centre driving axle is sprung, leading to smooth operation over track variations.

As with all Dapol 4mm and 7mm scale models, the fitting of a decoder is exceptionally easy with the removable smokebox door to access the daughter board, with its Next-18 decoder socket and speaker housing positioned where it counts, beneath the chimney. The model features a softly pulsating firebox glow and splendid directional headlamps mounted on the

smokebox and bunker that is very tidily wired considering their position.

The decoration of the model is excellent, and for this model the brass-plated safety dome does look in keeping, with etched plates provided for the name and builder's plate on the bunker with a fully decorated cab interior easily accessed by means of a magnetically-attached cab roof. Here, the unsurpassed flush glazing to the cab and spectacle plates can be seen with no internal intrusion.

For anyone modelling to scale, the model's information states that it is adaptable to correct O-14 for the L&B 1ft 1112 in gauge, that being by replacing or adjusting the existing wheelsets.

This is really a stunning working replica; a decade or so ago would we ever have foreseen that we would see such models?

FACTFILE

Models:

LHT-7NS-001 EXE As Delivered 1898 (Early Cab) LHT-7NS-002 YEO L & B Livery 1903-1913 (Early Cab) LHT-7NS-003 TAW L & B Livery 1913-1924 (Late Cab) LHT-7NS-004 EXE Southern Livery 1924-1927 (Late Cab) LHT-7NS-005 YEO Southern Livery 1927-1929 (Late Cab) LHT-7NS-006 TAW Southern Livery 1930-1931 (Late Cab)

Liveries: Lynton & Barnstaple green, Southern Maunsell green Price: DCC Ready £378.00. DCC Fitted £415.50. Sound Fitted £540.00

Era: 1898 - 1935

Construction: Diecast body and chassis with plastic detailing

Weight: 455g

Minimum curves: 610mm/2ft

radius

Accessories: Front vacuum pipe, etched plates

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Impressive weight
- ✓ Ease of decoder and sound fitting
- ✓ Cab interior and glazing
- ✓ Provision for 0-14 gauge
- ✓ Robust detailing



There's certainly space provided with the chassis and wheel design for the scale modeller to turn this into an 0-14 gauge model.









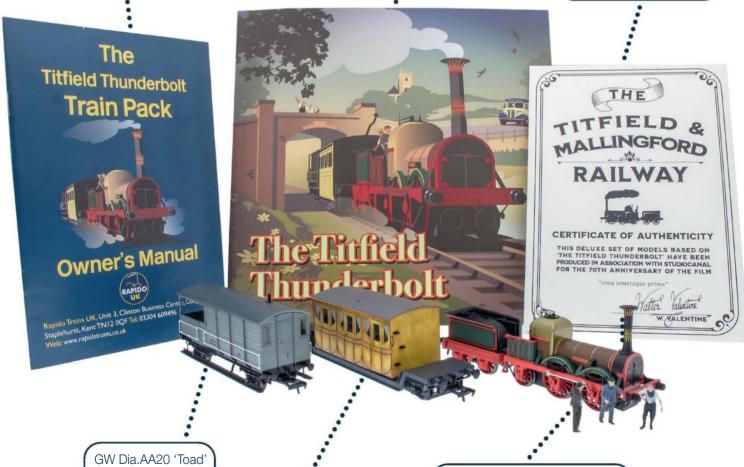
Rapido 'The Titfield' Thunderbolt' — Deluxe train pack



Andy York

Informative manual covering the history of the prototype in addition to all you need to know about owning and maintaining the model. Full colour book commemorating the 70th anniversary of the release of the film, including much background information.

Certificate acknowledging Studio Canal's support for the model, seemingly signed by Valentine before he hit the gin bottle.



brake, W68740, as used in the movie.

Loriot 'Y' well wagon mounted with Dan's house. Film character figures 3D-printed in full colour of the Squire, the Bishop of Welchester and the Vicar, Sam Weech, as driver.



e have previously reviewed Rapido's Liverpool and Manchester Lion, Loriot 'Y' well wagon and GW Dia.

AA20 'Toad' brake within BRM, all excellent models individually, but now comes their true reason for existence and very much a case of the sum of the parts being greater than the whole in the superb, delightful and evocative Titfield Thunderbolt set, produced, with a licence and excellent support from the film's owners, Studio Canal.

Our review model is the Deluxe train pack, which includes a captivating commemorative booklet delving into the film and its fascinating production and full-colour 3D-printed models of three of the principal characters involved with the operation of Thunderbolt.

The delights of the Deluxe set include DCC sound with quotable dialogue excerpts from key moments in the story; these can be found in our video clip on World of Railways and are worth the additional entertainment, including a tongue-in-cheek F20, which will give a wry smile to those who know the backstory of the inception and announcement of the Titfield models.

Thunderbolt was repainted in more vivid tones for the filming in 1953 to make use of 'Technicolor' as one of Britain's early

full-length colour cinema releases, and it is in this guise with red frames, patterned chimney and Thunderbolt nameplates we see the model, exclusively available from Rapido. Dan's house, mounted on an unmarked Loriot 'Y', features full internal detail as used in the film sets with weathered appearance as found in the field and can be opened up. The train, to meet the Light Railway Act of 1896, of course, needed a brake, hence the 'Toad' van.

The set is a luxury, a collectors' piece, rich in ephemera, which touches happy and nostalgic memories for those of us who remember the film from childhood, and have probably watched it many times since.



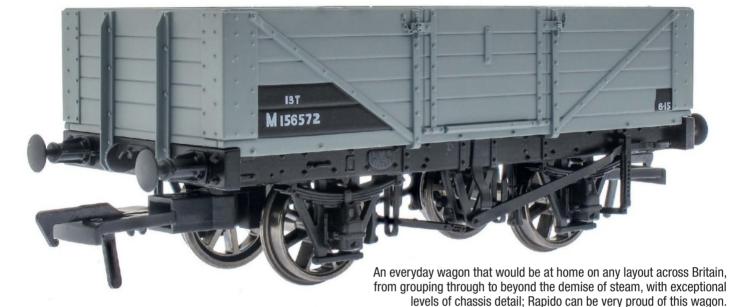






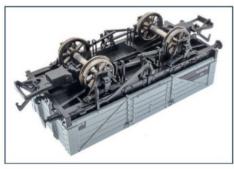


Rapido LMS Dia.1666 5-plank open & Andy York



apido is establishing a reputation for extremely fine representations of ordinary and useful wagons that were prevalent during the grouping period and beyond. This model of the diagram 1666 5-plank LMS open wagon fits that form well, as over 50,000 wagons were made from 1923-1930 to become a numerous and widely-travelled type beyond the boundaries of that railway.

Liveries range from six differentlynumbered LMS grey as built, three LMS bauxite wagons with smaller lettering, which started to appear from 1930 and through to the British Railways years, with five distinctly



The chassis detail is exceptional, but so is the running with brass bearings holding the pinpoint axles.

differently decorated BR unfitted grey models and a black internal user wagon, ensuring that variety can be created within rakes with different wheel types, split spokes, spoked and three-hole discs dependent on age. As mentioned, the wagons were widespread and would be as at home on a GW branch layout as any London Midland one.

The body detail is finely moulded with crisp definition, good decoration and interior strapping, but without rivet heads, a limitation of moulding processes. However, it's from the solebar downwards that the model excels with fine but robust W-irons, axleboxes, brake rigging for independent brakes on both sides and lovely brake levers, door bangs, and framing detail. The brake lever sits within the guides and can, with care, be repositioned to improve a goods yard cameo scene. The spindle-type buffers are very fine but un-sprung, with fine and well-shaped buffer heads. The tension-lock couplings and their mounts are removable and, when fitted with three-link couplings, it would not disgrace itself on the highest standards of finescale layouts, although the brake blocks, which are perfectly aligned for OO, would require adaptation to finescale track and wheelset standards.

A superb model of a very useful wagon type.

FACTFILE

Models:

LMS grev - 6 wagons. LMS bauxite – 3 wagons. BR grey - 5 wagons, Black internal user – 1 wagon, BR MPD black, D1379 - 1 wagon

Era: 1923 - preservation **Construction:** Plastic body

and chassis Weight: 30g

Minimum curves: Radius 1

(371mm)

Accessories: All fitted

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Accuracy
- ✓ Finely moulded detail
- ✓ Decoration and print quality
- ✓ Running quality
- ✓ Variety of liveries and numbers
- ✓ Robust but fine detailing.





EFE Rail Hunslet Austerity/194 & Andy York







surprise announcement came in Bachmann's quarterly Autumn announcements with an all-new N gauge Hunslet Austerity/J94 via the EFE Rail brand, a model designed and tooled by Kernow MRC. Although we have seen a OO Austerity from EFE that traced its lineage back to DJM, this N gauge model, which is all-new, owes nothing to the proposed DJM model. It's a huge step forward in dimensions and appearance from the aged Graham Farish model, which has been out of production for many years now and is a welcome model of an industrially widespread type.

From 1943 to 1946, 377 Hunslet Austerities were built for the War Department and 75 for the LNER, which were classed as J94. EFE has produced two BR-liveried J94s,



Access to the 6-pin decoder harness socket is gained by removing two screws beneath the chassis and lifting the cab off, revealing the painted backhead detail.

including our review sample with early emblem as allocated to Darlington from 1949; two in distinctly different BCB liveries, one in Manchester Ship Canal grey and one in the Wemyss Private Railway brown livery. Over the years, there will be many more liveries that can be chosen. There are some variants accommodated within the tooling, as the late-BR model of late crest 68075 features the extended bunker. Another minor difference between models is whether they have single or double strengthening fillets behind the bufferbeams and also smokebox doors with and without numberplates.

The look and stance of the real thing is well-captured, with daylight visible beneath the boiler and a representation of internal motion to the chassis. The wire handrails are very robust for the scale, so there's little chance of damage with handling and even the ejectors are linked to the cab steps to avoid damage. The decoration with brass paint to the safety valves and ejectors is nicely picked out in this otherwise austere livery, with the number and emblem neatly represented.

The model is fitted with a 6-pin decoder harness inside the cab positioned at floor level, which can be accessed by removing two chassis screws and lifting the cab off. This shows that the backhead detail has been modelled and painted. As the model has cab doors, it's sufficiently subtle as a solution, but you would struggle to fit a speaker in there, too.

All in all, this is a very useful type to have available to modern standards at last, given their suitability for industrial and heritage railway usage and the potential liveries to be chosen.

FACTFILE

Models:

E85501 J94 68075 BR Black (Late Crest), E85502 J94 68043 BR Black (Early Emblem), E85503 Austerity No. 12 National Coal Board Kent Lined Blue, E85504 Austerity Amazon National Coal Board Lined Green, E85508 Austerity 85 M.S.C. (Manchester Ship Canal) Lined Grey, E85509 Austerity No. 15 W.P.R (Wemyss Private Railway) Brown

Era: 1943 – industrial and current heritage operations **Construction:** Plastic body with

diecast chassis frame Weight: 27g

DCC socket: 6-pin

Minimum curves: Radius 2 (263mm)

Accessories: Bufferbeam detailing and cosmetic coupling

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Base decoration
- ✓ Branding, numbering and detail decoration
- ✓ Ease of decoder fitting

PROTOTYPE

ntroduced during the Second World War by the Hunslet Engine Co. the R.A. Riddles' designed 'Austerity' 0-6-0 saddle-tanks were built in considerable numbers, with 377 being delivered to the War Department between 1943 and 1947. Such was the size and urgency of the order that Hunslet could only build 120 and sub-contracted construction of the other 257 'Austerities' to five other builders: Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. (15), W.G. Bagnall (52), Hudswell Clarke (50), Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns (90), and the Vulcan Foundry (50), although subsequent construction was almost entirely undertaken by the Hunslet Engine Co.

The type, which weighed 48 ton 5 cwt, and had 18in x 26in inside-cylinders, 4ft 3in diameter wheels and an overall wheelbase of 11ft, proved so successful that, following the cessation of hostilities, a further 108 were built between 1947 and 1964, with construction undertaken by Hunslet (98), the Yorkshire Engine Co. (8), and Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns (2). These additional locomotives were for the National Coal Board (79), the steel industry (15), and the Army (14), bringing the total number of 'Austerity' 0-6-0 saddle-tanks to 485.

In 1946, 75 of the War Department 'Austerities' were sold to the LNER, where they were classified as J94s, and renumbered 8006 to 8080. After being inherited by BR, the majority of the J94 continued to work on the

North Eastern and Eastern Regions, although seven were allocated to the London Midland Region, with three based on the Cromford & High Peak Railway.

A number of War Department 'Austerities' were also purchased by the NCB, adding to the 79 new locomotives they had ordered from Hunslet, and it would be the NCB that continued to operate the type at collieries across the country into the 1970s, with the last survivors still in service at a handful of pits situated in the North West of England and the Midlands into the early 1980s.

Over the years, relatively few modifications were made to the design, with the most significant being undertaken by the NCB in order to reduce smoke and improve efficiency and performance. These included the fitting of an underfeed stoker and gas producer system to some locomotives, while others were converted from coal- to oil-burning. The NCB also modified some 'Austerities' by fitting them with Kylpor blast pipes and Giesel ejectors, these being easily identifiable by their distinctive narrow chimney.

Being reliable performers and easy to maintain, some 70 'Austerities' found their way into preservation, although the years have finally begun to catch up with them, and many are now no longer in regular use, either having now been put on static display or into store pending future overhaul and restoration.

BELOW: Former Wemvss Private Railway 'Austerity' No. 15, w/n AB2183 built 1945, is pictured on the East Lancashire Railway outside Buckley Wells shed, Bury, during a visit in September 2009. One of the 15 'Austerities' constructed by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. this locomotive, first numbered No. WD 712529, worked at Lockinge Ordnance Depot, Berks, before being sold to the Wemyss Private Railway in October 1964. After the coal carrying W.P.R. closed in 1970, No. 15 was sold to Thos. Muir of Thornton, remaining at their scrapyard in Fife for over two decades, before finally entering preservation at the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway in 2003. Returned to steam in 2007, it was subsequently named Earl David and is now in service on the Vale of Berkelev Railway at Sharpness Docks.

Austerity' 0-6-0 Saddle-Tanks

Words & Photography: David Ratcliffe



PROTOTYPE



The J94 'Austerity' saddle-tanks forged a strong association with the Cromford & High Peak Railway, and in April 1964 No. 68006 was recorded shunting a rake of Derbyshire Stone Ltd. wagons at Cromford Wharf. The J94's first arrived on the C&HPR in 1956 and would remain until the line closed in 1967. (COPYRIGHT: Trevor Mann collection)



No. 6, pictured at Bridge of Dun on the Caledonian Railway in July 1992, was one of the 52 'Austerities' built by W.G. Bagnall for the War Department, being originally numbered WD 75161. Constructed in 1944, to w/n WB2749, it later became part of the NCB fleet at Backworth Colliery in Northumberland, and, after being withdrawn in 1976, was preserved on the nearby Bowes Railway. In 1979, it moved to the



Hunslet built 'Austerity' w/n HE3777 was built in 1952 for the NCB, but after preservation at the Churnet Valley Railway in the late 1970s, it was repainted in British Railways' livery as No. 68030 (the real 68030 having been scrapped in 1962). The 'imposter' then visited a number of other heritage lines, including the East Lancashire Railway, and was recorded heading a train of Mk.1 and Mk.2 coaches at Bury Bolton Street station in September 2004.



Amongst the seven 'Austerity' 0-6-0STs used on the Stewarts & Lloyds ironstone quarry railways was w/n HE3850 built 1958. Named Juno, it moved to the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton Road in 1968, where it was recorded when in store, minus its nameplates, during August 1978. After restoration, it worked for several years at Quainton before being loaned to the National Railway Museum in 2010 for display at Shildon.



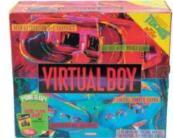
One of the Hunslet-built 'Austerities' purchased new by the NCB during the early 1950, w/n HE3778 named Warspite is seen shunting 21T Hopper wagons at Harrington Colliery, near Workington, during March 1970. Constructed in 1950, Warspite was initially based at the NCB's Walkden Workshops, where it was fitted with a Giesel ejector, while its involvement in trials to reduce smoke by burning a mixture of coal and coke also saw its bunker extended.



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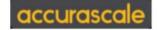


















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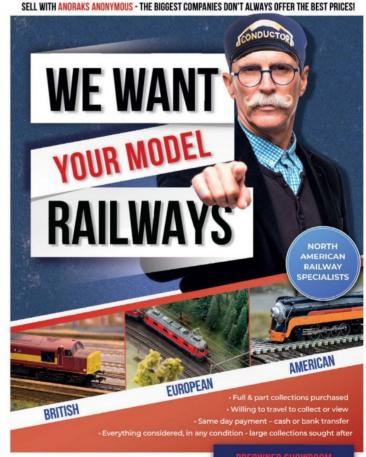
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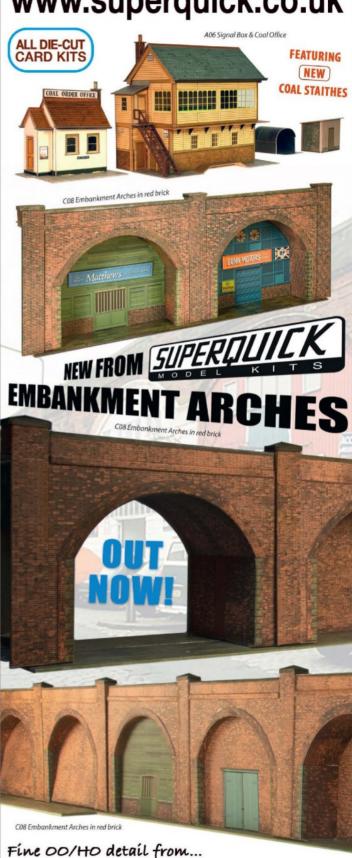
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Jan 13/14 - BOGNOR REGIS Model Railway Exhibition, Felpham Community College Felpham Way, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex P022 8EL Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.30 **Free Parking*

Jan 14 - WESTON SUPER MARE Model Railway Exhibition, Priory Community School, Queens Way, Weston Super Mare, BS22 6BP. Sun 10-4.

Jan 21 - GUILDFORD - Astolat Model Railway Exhibition, The Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Richard Meyjes Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7AD. Sunday 10-5. www.astolatmrc.co.uk

Jan 27/28 - KENDAL Model Railway Exhibition, Kendal Leisure Centre, Burton Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7HX. Sat 10-5. Sun 10-4.30

Jan 27/28 - SOUTHAMPTON Model Railway Exhibition, Barton Peveril College, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, S050 5ZA. Sat 10-5/Sun 10-4.30

Feb 3/4 - ALTON - FebEx 2024 Alton Model Railway Group Exhibition, Eggars School, Anstey Road, Alton, Hants, GU34 4EQ. Sat 10.30-5. Sunday 10.30-4.00.

Feb 10&11 - THE FESTIVAL OF BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING, Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Doncaster Racecourse DN26BB Sat 10-5. Sun 10-4.30

Mar 2 - KETTERING Gauge 'O' Guild Spring Show, Kettering Leisure Village, Thurston Drive, Kettering, NN15 6PB. 10-4. *Plenty of FREE parking*

Mar 16/17 - ALEXANDRA PALACE The London Festival of Railway Modelling.

Alexandra Palace, London, N22 7AY. Sat 9.30-5 Sun 9.30-4.30. Mar 30 - April 1 - YORK Model Railway Show. The Knavesmire Stand.

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April 13 - NEWPORT NEWGOG O Gauge Model Railway Show, Lysaght Institute, Orb Road, Newport, NP19 ORA. Saturday 10-4.30.

June 29/30 - PERTH Model Railway Exhibition, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth, PH2 0TH. Sat 10-5.30, Sun 10-5. www.perthmrc.com

Oct 12/13 - ALDERSHOT Model Railway Exhibition, Farnham MRC, Alderwood Leisure Centre, Tongham Rd, Aldershot, GU12 4AS. **Show guide included in admission and FREE Car Parking*

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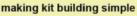
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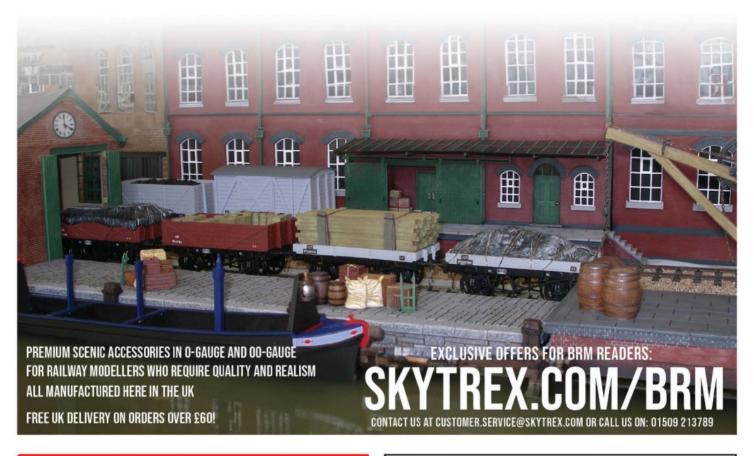
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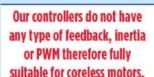
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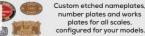




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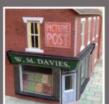


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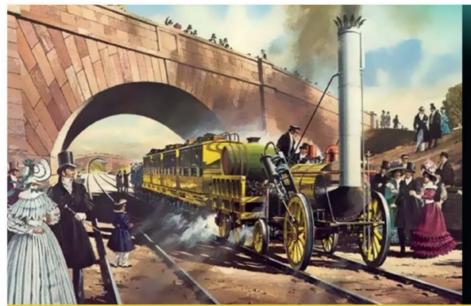
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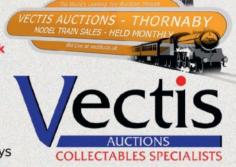
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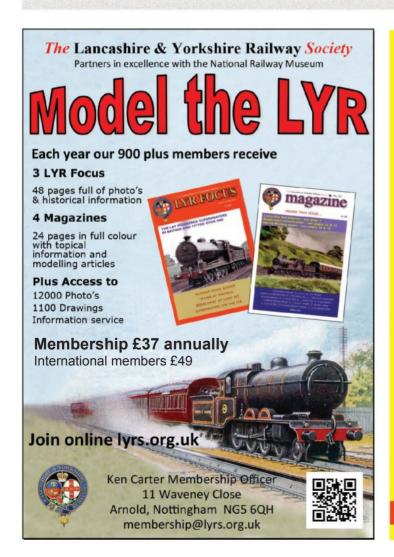
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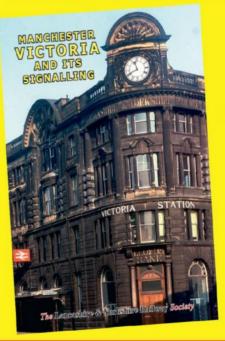
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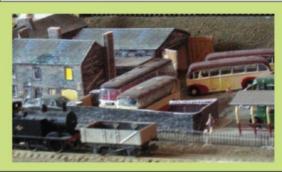
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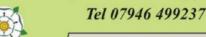
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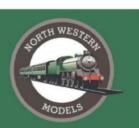
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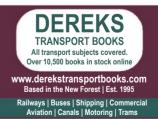
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Buffer (Fun, or frustration?



Torking behind the barrier at a model railway exhibition can, you'll be surprised to learn, be a bit boring. At first, the thrill of running trains for an appreciative audience is great. Give it a few hours, and it's easy to get blasé, especially if the layout is running well. Think about it, how many of you run trains at home all day without a break?

By the end of the show, the temptation is to muck around a little bit. That last hour is traditionally when all the "unusual" trains make an appearance. The working Gandy Dancer, or models that don't fit into the period or location of the layout. Stuff that gives the operators a chuckle.

Elsewhere, you can find odd additions to the scene – plenty of models host a minor Dalek invasion in hard-to-see corners. Not prototypical, unless you are modelling the year 2150, according to the film.

All this amuses the layout operators, but does it frustrate those who have paid to come to the show? At a recent event, one excellent model hosted a couple of tiny plastic ducks in the scenery. Kids were encouraged to look for them, being rewarded with their own example, in one of a range of colours, for their efforts.

On one hand, this encourages them to take a really good look at the layout, and hopefully to appreciate all the detail and superb modelling. On the other, serious enthusiasts might prefer not to see something more appropriate to a bathtub poking out from underneath a viaduct, or hiding in the trees. And they certainly aren't going to appreciate a number of them taking a ride in the back of a good train!

When we photograph a layout, we generally avoid the novelty items if we can, although one of our number (looking at you Phil) insists on taking a special photo of them, which generally appear as part of an extra gallery for digital readers.

Our feeling is that it's the exhibitors' layout, so they can do what they want. Most are perfectly aware of their audience and want to please everyone, but what do BRM readers feel? Should we feature the fun items more often on our pages? And if you like them, what's the best entertaining layout feature you have seen?

This month in pictures...



Andy's been checking out all the work he hasn't got around to on his layout, 'Tackeroo'



You know you're at a northern show when there is Boyril on offer at the tea bar.



Phil doesn't drink from dirty mugs, so it fell to the Stafford exhibition manager to wash up.



An afternoon's steam trains and cake at a village event, and over £400 was raised for a local hospice.

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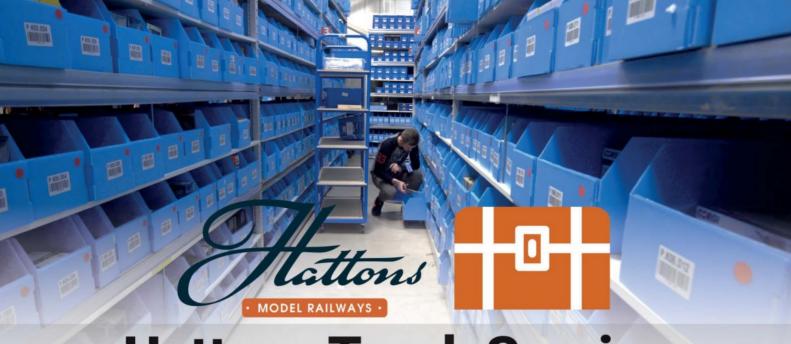


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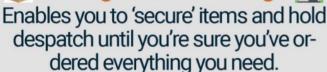


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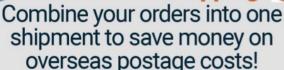


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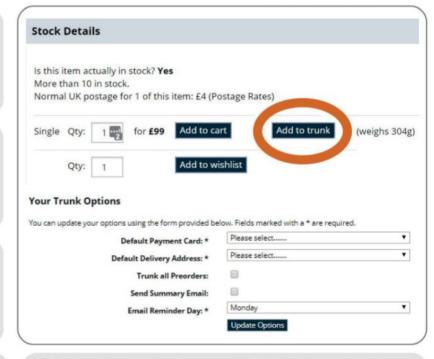


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