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here are divisions in every hobby and railway modelling is no exception. Diesel versus steam, or 'OO' versus 'N' are obvious examples, but one that often goes under the radar - at least until it pops up on internet forums - is that of collector versus modeller. It seems that some modellers take a dim view of collectors. What's the point, they say, in buying a model and leaving it in a box, or on a shelf? Surely the point is to watch it work, and see it mimic the real thing?

The beauty of any hobby, however, is that everyone can take something different from it. There's nothing wrong with buying a model and not using it on a layout. There are plenty of railway enthusiasts who have no interest in owning a layout, but who want a model of their favourite locomotive. You won't have room in your study for a real 'Black Five' but Hornby's model will sit nicely on a shelf for you to enjoy.

Most layout owners will have some sort of collection. We often read descriptions of layouts that have been built, for example, to house someone's collection of Class 37s. Just because they're on a layout and not left in their packaging and boxes doesn't make them any less of a collection. As you'll read in this issue, I have six Bachmann Ivatt '4MTs'. It's not a huge collection by some standards (former A1 Trust Chairman Mark Allatt, photographed above, has all 79 Gresley 'A4s' and 'A3/A1s' - see MR184) but my desire for historical accuracy has led me to invest in something that most people would consider unusual!

There's something in all of us that compels us to collect things, whatever our interest. One may be more socially acceptable than another, but is Dave Lowery's 200 Matchbox Ford RS200s, or Chris Leigh's wall covered with celebrity autographs any different to a football supporter who buys Manchester United home, away and training strips, not to mention duvet covers, curtains and even floor rugs?

We all contribute to the model railway economy, and our purchases are usually selective - most of us don't buy one of everything. But some collectors do. Most of us would balk at spending a couple of hundred pounds on a model. However, the museum-quality sector of the model industry, where four-figure sums are common - seems to be booming. Unless there are lots of layouts out there full of exquisitely detailed model locomotives, it's probably fair to say that most of them are providing a visual treat on a shelf somewhere.

Which brings me onto the subject of Dapol's Black Label brand. Dapol should be given full credit for dipping a toe in the water with a model designed to appeal to the collector end of the market, but at a three-figure price that more of us can afford. Thanks to Dapol, we've got one of its new models to review - turn to page 24 to read our assessment of this bold new venture that goes a long way to bridging the gap and mitigating at least one contentious issue in our hobby.

Richard Foster

MEET THE TEAM

Q: What is your most prized collectible?



Richard Foster Editor My small railwayana collection, starring South Lynn running-in board and a chair 'obtained' from Dinorwic slate quarry.



George Dent Deputy Editor 1970s Liverpool FC programmes, especially the European cup games against Aiax, St. Étienne and Barcelona.



Chris Leigh Consultant Editor Letters from Hayley Mills and Rod Stewart and a signed photograph of my favourite actress. Jenny Agutter.



Mike Harris Staff Writer A 1950s re-issue Fender Stratocaster à la Buddy Holly, I'd dearly love to own an original - That'll Be the Day ...



Regular Contributors



Peter Marriott Scenics Specialist



Chris Nevard Photographer



Dave Lowery Modellina Consultant



Ben Ando Modern image 'N' aauae



Paul A. Lunn Layout design Consultant

May





What's New

Big PictureWelcome to this hill-climbing issue with a momentous occasion on the Lickey.

08

Model Rail/Rapido Trains 'J70' passes its first milestone as Class B gets the nod.

12 **Reviews**

Dapol's Class 68, Little Loco Company's Class 15 and 'N' gauge stock from Peco

and Farish are examined by our experts. **Dapol Black Label 'A4'**

24 COVER STORY Richard Foster tests Dapol's first Black Label model to see if it makes the grade.

28 **Install sensor signals** Guiding light Chris Leigh has an

illuminating experience installing automatic signals.

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Windmill Terminal

Paul Rolley's masterclass in using simple techniques to create something that's far more than the sum of its parts.

40 20 best climbs

Richard Foster picks 20 spectacular sections where locomotives do battle against gravity.

80 **Brixcombe** Farnham & District MRC members are

aiming for 'P4' perfection with this quintessential GWR branch line.







Looking for an article from a previous issue of MR? Search the online index at: www.ukmodelshops.co.uk/ModelRail







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'ready-to-run' 'USA' O-6-OTs.

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146 **Next Issue**A sneak peak at what's in store for the next exciting issue of *Model Rail*.

Workbench We show you how...

Create a Shap soldier
To mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Tebay shed, George Dent recreates one of its Shap bankers.

All figured out
You've created the model railway, but
now you need to make your cast of
miniature figures act like the real thing.

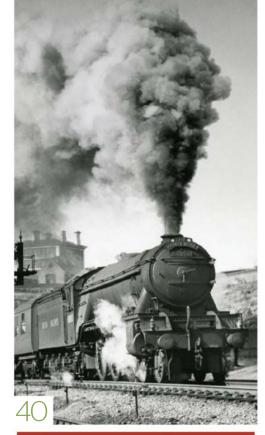
Re-number an RTR loco
Richard Foster shows you the right
way (and the wrong way) to apply new
numbers to your models.

Build an incline diorama
Peter Marriott takes a fresh angle on
narrow gauge modelling with this
winding house diorama.

Build a funicular railway
Modeller and author Graham Goodchild
puts the fun into funicular with this
scratchbuild project.

Turn a planter into a ship
Paul A. Lunn has a view to a keel as he
converts a cheap plant pot into a 'OO'
gauge ocean-going ship.

102 **Kit-bash a swing bridge**Taking a closer look at Dapol's range of kits, Paul A. Lunn finds a different use for an unloved turntable kit.



MODEL RAIL PAY LESS WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE

TURN TO PAGE 62 TO FIND OUT MORE





THE BIG PICTURE



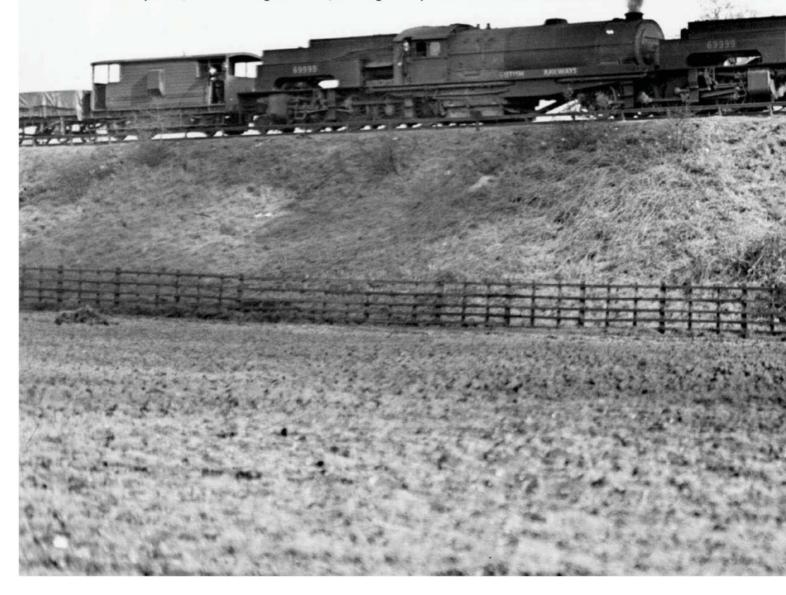
elcome to this special issue of *Model Rail*, dedicated to Britain's steepest stretches of railway. In this issue you'll find numerous projects and sources of inspiration that star some of our most trickiest and dramatic railways. And where better to start than the Lickey Incline, the

two-mile, 1-in-37 climb to Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, seen through the lens of photographer Pat Ransome-Wallis in March 1950?

Talk about being in the right place at the right time - he was able to record ex-LMS Garratt No. 47982 clawing its way to the summit with a 42-wagon coal train, and being

given a helping hand by not only the regular Lickey banker, ex-Midland Railway O-10-O No. 58100, but also ex-LNER Garratt No. 69999.

That's six men, 38 driving wheels, ten cylinders and over 160,000lbs of power battling the forces of nature. What an awe-inspiring spectacle that must have been.





IVews

Model Rail brings you the biggest stories from the model railway trade and progress reports on products currently in development.

CLUSIVE: ROJECT J70 KS COV

I he wheels have started to turn on *Model* Rail/Rapido Trains' Project J70 with this, the initial computer artwork, Rapido Product Developer Bill Schneider has created this artwork using works drawings from the National Railway Museum, as well as a host of prototype photographs. Rapido's engineers in China will use this artwork to produce the CAD from which the tooling will be produced. During this stage, the precise details about the mechanism, the location of the DCC socket and NEM coupler pockets will be confirmed.

At this stage, we are pleased to confirm that the model will be available with and without sideplates and that modellers will be able to have the end doors either opened or closed.

Liveries and running numbers will be confirmed once the CAD artwork is complete, and when we know what is and what isn't possible. Then we'll be able to open the order book. Keep an eye on Model Rail for further updates.









N GAUGE SHOW DATES

announced for the 2017 International N Gauge Show. The UK's leading show dedicated to 'N' is to take place on September 9/10 at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, near Learnington Spa. This year's show is set to feature a special stand from the N Gauge Society that will celebrate its

50th anniversary. ■ For more information and to book tickets, go to www.ngaugeshow.co.uk

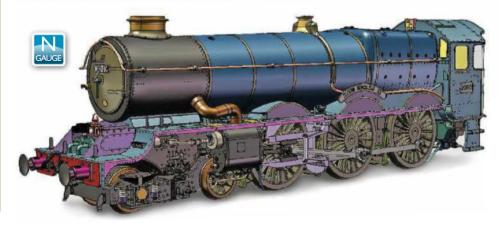
PERFECT TENEMENT
Smart Models has introduced a modular tenement building based The downloadable kit, available in 'N' or 'OO', can be extended and is available in three colours. **Price:** £6.99.

Availability: www.smartmodels.co.uk

ALL HAIL THE 'KING'

DJModels is to produce an 'N' gauge GWR 'King' - but only if enough people join its crowdfunding scheme. DJModels' version is to have an impressive specification, including coreless motor inside the locomotive, Next18 DCC decoder and

different bogies to suit different curve radii. If you want one of the GWR's finest 4-6-0s to contemporary standards, you have until June 17 to register your interest. Visit www.djmodeis.co.uk for full details.



Next issue's Model of the Month will be Hornby's superb new original 'Merchant Navy' 4-6-2 reviewed by Chris Leigh.



Got a news story or new product?

Send your press releases, details and highresolution images to mike.harris@ bauermedia.co.uk or telephone 01733 395149

'73s' SELLING FAST

Gaugemaster has commissioned six limited edition Class 73s from Dapol: 73142 Broadlands in 'Executive' grey, 73141 Charlotte in First GBRf purple, 73235 in South West Trains blue, 73202 in Southern green/white and 73101 in Pullman umber/cream as both Brighton Evening Argus and The Royal Alex. All versions are selling fast (at the time of writing, some had already sold

out) so place your order now to avoid disappointment.

Price: £69.95 each.

Availability: Gaugemaster.

Tel: 01903 884488.

Web: www.gaugemaster.com







Revolution Trains' 'Class B' oil tanker is to enter production... although the decision to do it was a close run thing. The model was proposed in November 2016 (MR228) and it appeared that orders would not reach the minimum number needed to fund production. However, the figure was reached in late February and work has now started.

The 'Class B' was introduced by BR in 1957, and Revolution's model, which will be produced by Rapido Trains, will feature similar levels of detail to the TEA bogie tanker, with photo-etched catwalks and ladders, and numerous separately

fitted parts

representing brake

and discharge gear. Six liveries are proposed, but it has not been confirmed whether all will be produced.

Price: £19.95 each.

Availability: www.revolutiontrains.com

TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE



York Modelmaking has unveiled its latest kit. a Great Northern Railway

footbridge, based on a structure that once stood at Drighlington station, in West Yorkshire. The kit will feature a mixture of laser-cut and 3D-printed parts.

Price: TBC. Availability: York Modelmaking. Tel: 01904 400358. Web: www.yorkmodelmaking.com



YELLOW SLEEPER

The model is limited

Subscribe at www.model-rail.co.uk

Kernow Model Rail Centre has commissioned a limited run of Bachmann Class 57s as 57305 in Network Rail yellow. The Dellner-coupling fitted locomotive was hired by First Great Western in 2014 to haul the 'Night Rivieria' sleeper where, thanks to its livery, it acquired the nickname 'Sand Castle'.

Price: From £169.95.

Availability: Kernow Model Rail Centre.

Tel: 01209 714099.

Web: www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com

HOT 'DOGFISH'



Heljan's 'Dogfish' ballast hoppers are back... thanks to Kernow Model Rail Centre. Kernow has

commissioned three 'Dogfish' four-packs in BR black, BR olive green and Civil Engineer's 'Dutch'. All wagons are weathered, using 'masters' produced by Mercig Studios. Each pack is limited to 300 pieces.

Price: £99.99 each.

Availability: Kernow Model Rail Centre. Tel: 01209 714099.

Web: www.kernowmodelrailcentre.com







HOSKING BUYS HORNBY HQ

Multi-millionaire locomotive owner Jeremy Hosking has bought the former Hornby factory at Margate. Mr Hosking's Locomotive Storage Ltd, part of his enterprise that includes 13 main line steam locomotives such as *Britannia*, *Blue Peter, Royal Scot, Bittern* and *King Edward I*, has acquired the historic site, which was the home of Tri-ang and then Hornby for 60 years.

LSL spokesman Peter Greenwood said: "The premises are somewhat larger than we need for our own purposes, and we would be happy to hear from interested parties who might also have a need for storage facilities, or indeed may have other propositions to put to us."

Hornby has moved its distribution operations to Canterbury and its offices to Sandwich. The Hornby Visitor Centre will remain on the historic site, the remainder of which requires a "degree of refurbishment" before it is brought into use.





DRAGON'S BLESSING

North Western Models, an online model shop based in Stockport, Cheshire, has recently won a prestigious Small Business Sunday award from Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis. The award recognises the achievements and successes of recently established small firms. Proprietors Kevin and Christopher received the award from Mr Paphitis at a ceremony in Birmingham in February. Go to www. northwesternmodels.co.uk to see its full range.

The Bala Lake Railway is to hold its second 'Bala Model Railway Show' on May 27/28. The show will follow the formula of 2016's weekend as the railway takes over the town's secondary school with 15 layouts in 'N', 'OO' and 'O', including an 'N' gauge take on nearby Llangollen station that is to visit from Ireland. The BLR will run an intensive timetable, featuring as many of its

ex-Dinorwic, Penrhyn and Pen-yr-Orsedd quarry locomotives as possible, including newly restored Hunslet O-4-OST George B. The local Vintage Tractor Club will host the Bala Lake Festival of Transport adjacent to the BLR's Llanuwchllyn station.

■ For details, contact the BLR. **Tel:** 01678 540666.

E-mail: info@bala-lake-railway.co.uk).



1ALCOLM RANIERI/BLI



DECAL DELUGE

Colas Rail's newly acquired brace of Class 67s have been hard at work since their acquisition, causing a stir in their eyecatching orange and yellow livery. Already, modellers are spoilt for choice in terms of dedicated decal packs for 67023/027, available from both Railtec Transfers and Precision Labels.

Each pack includes all necessary logos, numbers and embellishments, with packs being offered for 2, 4 and 7mm scales

Availability: Precision Labels. **Web:** www.precisionlabels.com and www.railtec-models.com

'GATE STOCK' TWEAKED

Electrifying Trains has tweaked its ready-to-run ex-LSWR 'Gate Stock' to represent the vehicles in their original condition. The modifications include re-modelled driving coach front end, revised interior and original gas lighting posts. The models, which are

will be finished in LSWR 'salmon pink' and 'invisible green' (black).

Price: £1,395.

Availability: Electrifying Trains. **Tel:** 02084 405918.

Web: www.electrifyingtrains.co.uk



STONEWALLED

Osborn's Models of Bideford has introduced a pack of flexible Cotswoldstyle stone walling complete with a wooden laser-cut gate. It's suitable for various terrains and the pieces interlock. There are three lengths of 18.5cm wall in each pack

and it is easy to cut with a sharp blade.

Price: £8.95.

Availability: Osborn's Models. Tel: 01237 423453.
Web: www.osbornsmodels.com





EXCLUSIVE TO MODEL RAIL

USATANKS

Our second exclusive 'OO' gauge locomotive project is the popular Southern Railway 'USA' O-6-OT. Our model, produced by Bachmann, covers the detail differences between the 'USA' and the original USATC 'S100'.





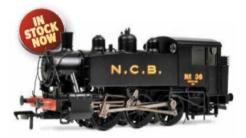




MR-101: No. 1968, USATC black



MR-109: No. 30067, BR late emblem black (pristine)



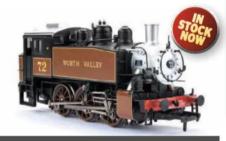
MR-107: No. 36, National Coal Board black



MR-105: No. WD300 *Major-General Frank S. Ross*, LMR blue



MR-110: No. DS237 *Maunsell*, Departmental green



MR-108: No. 72, Keighley & Worth Valley Railway ochre

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Maunsell is one of the brightest liveried 'USAs' we offer, thanks to the time it spent at Ashford works in the mid-1960s. Built by Vulcan Ironworks in 1943 as USA Transportation Corps No. 1968, it became one of the 15 'S100s' bought by the Southern Railway in 1947, where it became No. 65.

At nationalisation, the new No. 30065 was at work at Southampton docks until October 1962, when it joined classmate No. 30070 on departmental duties at Ashford works. Both were painted green, lined in yellow, and both were named - No. 30070 becoming DS238 Wainwright (named after the SECR locomotive engineer) whereas No. 30065 was christened DS237 Maunsell (after the Southern Railway's first Chief Mechanical Engineer).

The pair remained in traffic until July 9 1967, but they weren't sold until March 1968. *En route* to Barry scrapyard in South Wales, they got as far as Tonbridge before they began to run 'hot', and were left there until the August, when they were re-sold to the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

Maunsell was withdrawn from service at the KESR in early 2017, and now requires a full overhaul. Meanwhile, Wainwright should re-enter service this year, albeit painted in full Longmoor Military Railway livery.

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£112.46



MODEL OF THE MONTH

POL CLASS 68

A model that prompts **CHRIS LEIGH** to make an impulse purchase must be very special indeed - but what's his verdict, now he's given it the once-over?

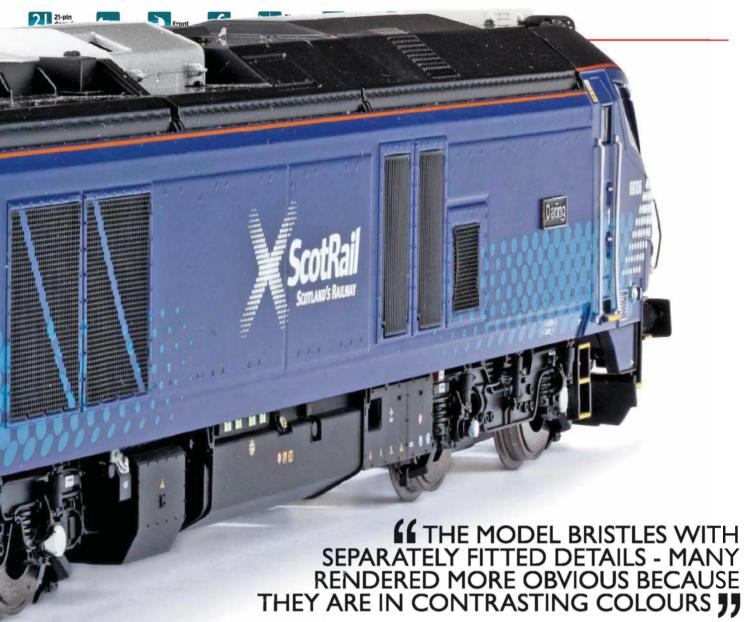
ver since Foster Yeoman went shopping for new locomotives in the USA, back in the 1980s, British train operators have increasingly been obliged to look overseas for new motive power. Not that there has been much requirement for locomotives beyond the Class 66, with just a small number of Alstom's Class 67s (Spain) acquired for special passenger train

haulage, and then the GE Class 70s (USA) for heavy freight.

Direct Rail Services set the ball rolling in 2012, however, with an order for mixed traffic locomotives designated Class 68. Intended for use on intermodal and passenger trains, the Class 68s began arriving in the UK in 2014. The initial order for 25 was increased to cover locomotives for lease to Chiltern Trains and ScotRail,

and a further batch is on order for TransPennine, bringing the total to 34. These will be followed by 15 electrodiesel versions, called Class 88.

The Class 68 is built by Vossloh (now Stadler) in Spain and is based on the company's EuroLight design, which complies with current EU emission regulations, reduced to fit the UK loading gauge and which Vossloh called UKLight. The aim was to meet



the demand for a locomotive with an axle weight of under 20 tons, and an overall weight of under 80 tons, with high-power output and 100mph maximum speed. It is fitted with AAR (Association of American Railroads) push-pull equipment. Nos. 68006/007 are with ScotRail, and 68010-015 are with Chiltern, with 68008/009 modified to work also for Chiltern, but retain DRS livery.

TransPennine Express will use a minimum of 13 from August 2018, and these will be Nos. 68019-68032, with 68033/034 modified as spare locomotives.

Dapol has the licence to produce the Class 68 in 'OO' and 'N' gauges, although only the 'OO' model has so far been released. It is currently being offered in DRS, Chiltern and ScotRail liveries, and in DCC ready, DCC on-board and DCC sound versions.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The Dapol Class 68 made quite a significant first impression on me at Model Rail Scotland. At the time I had no particular need for, nor interest in. a Class 68, although I do very much like the current ScotRail Saltire livery. It was this striking scheme and its superb

application on the Dapol Class 68 which caught my eye. I had seen the real Class 68 only in photographs, and thought its strange indented front end looked like it had been involved in an accident. I really wasn't a fan.

But an eye-catching livery that has been well executed is always a headturner. After a couple of days at the show and walking past that display, I found myself reaching for my credit card. Examining the model at my leisure has convinced me that my impulse purchase of 68007 Valiant was a good one (we subsequently received ScotRail classmate 68006 Daring from Dapol).

The second impression is only evident when one handles the locomotive. It is exceptionally heavy. Weighing in at well over one and a half pounds, it must be the heaviest model of its size that I've ever handled a welcome but bizarre feature for a model of a prototype which includes 'light' in its name.

MODULES AND DETAILS

Modern locomotives tend to consist of various equipment modules installed on a frame. The Class 68 does at least

have a streamlined body, and though the modular concept is still present, it is less obvious. The model does, however, bristle with separately fitted details and many of these are rendered more obvious because they are in contrasting colours.

On the roof, for instance, there are air-conditioning pods on both cab roofs with horns tucked down beside them, and there are etched fan grilles with separate fans below them, and a large exhaust silencer 'box' reminiscent of the Class 59s. There are also a couple of tiny details, picked out in a silver colour, which are quite minute and which are, I guess, sensors or aerials.

Separate side details are limited to the plastic cab door handrails and very fine mesh grilles, behind which some recessed detail is visible. Nameplates are

separate etched



Well proportioned model with some very fine detail, heavy, powerful.

No driver. otherwise little of note.





parts. On my sample they were fine, but I have seen some on which the plates are not horizontal, or have glue visible around them. The cab door details and the curiously shaped cabside windows have been well captured.

The ends are festooned with separate details. Dapol has treated this model in the way I like to detail diesels, with a 'front' having all the prototype pipes, cables and coupling, and a 'rear' fitted with the tension lock. In this instance, however, Dapol has managed to include most of the details alongside the tension lock on the inner end, too. All the pipes and cables are pre-fitted, as is the air-dam on the front end. A second air-dam is provided for the inner end and can be fitted if you are not using the tension lock. My sample has nose-end handrails (not fitted to all locomotives) and the long single windscreen wipers are very fine indeed. The lightly sprung plastic buffers are of the distinctive European shape.

Bogie sideframes are well detailed, with separately fitted cab steps and speedometer cables. Apparently the cab interior of the real thing was designed in consultation with the

drivers' trade union, and while the model does have cab interior detail, it is moulded in very dark plastic and quite difficult to see. Once again, we have a locomotive with no driver!

LIGHT AND SOUND

DCC on-board and DCC sound-fitted versions of the Class 68 are being offered, while the basic analogue model has perforations above one bogie to allow for speaker installation. As supplied, the analogue model has front and rear directional lighting. Twin red rear lights are illuminated together with three white front lights and the leading cab. The lights are bright and effective.

There is provision for switching off the rear and cab lights on analogue control. The instruction sheet explains the switching arrangement and the two main switches are accessible by removing the exhaust moulding on the roof. Fitting a six-function decoder allows all the lights to be controlled independently via DCC.

FIT AND FINISH

The nameplates are etched fittings in the correct style and those on my





Sound port



throughout.

carried.

legible.



sample are neatly applied, and while both seem to be just slightly askew, it may just be an optical illusion. Otherwise the fit and finish is excellent

The livery execution is unusually good, with the blue and white spotted elements of the ScotRail livery applied over a rich, deep blue with a satin finish. The logo, with its spotted cross, looks convincing and the model carries numerous tiny panels with fully

legible lettering. The maker's plate carries the Vossloh logo, the number 2685 and the builder's date - 2014. TOPS data panels are carried adjacent to the cab doors, and are also fully legible. Even the overall length and bogie centre dimensions are

The orange cant rail line is neatly applied around the complex cab fronts, and all steps are picked out in vellow. Fuel and battery boxes carry an impressive array of markings and even the electrification warning flashes are

Given the weight, it is no surprise to find that the chassis is a substantial

Both ends of the chassis are fitted

with self-centring NEM pockets, one of

which is fitted with a standard

DAPOL CLASS 68

OVERVIEW

Ref. No.

Unit No.

Body

Chassis

Weight

ELECTRICS

Lights?

Motor type

DCC ready?

Max. speed

MECHANISM

Drive system

Flywheel(s)

SERVICING

Where to oil

DIMENSIONS

Height

Width

Traction tyres

How to dismantle

Length over buffers

Wheel diameter

Bogie wheelbase

Wheel back-to-back

Manufacturer

Scale/gauge

Min. curve radius

Electrical system

CURRENT CONSUMPTION

tension-lock coupler. As with my

metal casting with a central recess containing the motor and drive shafts. The centrally mounted motor has a brass flywheel at one end and drives both all axles through a cardan shaft and bogie-mounted gearboxes.















68007

IT MUST BE THE HEAVIEST MODEL OF ITS SIZE THAT I'VE EVER HANDLED ""

previous experience with the Hornby

Peckett (MR232), the hook part of the

tension lock fell off before tests had

even begun. These couplings - or at

mine. They are the one feature of

I was expecting great things, and

I was not disappointed. Electrical

pick-up is positive, thanks to the

weight and the all-wheel current

collection. I ran the model in on my

home layout with four Mk 3 coaches

in tow and was pleasantly surprised

to find it virtually silent in operation,

and smooth-running straight from

home on my Code 83 and Code 75

track and ran faultlessly, unattended

Equally, there's no shortage of

adhesion, and on Model Rail's test

accelerating up the 1-in-60 gradient

coaches in tow and could well have taken more. Subsequently, I had

16 vehicles behind it on the flat

circuit and the only limiting factor is the tendency for

very long trains of

mismatched

coaches to

derail.

with 13 mixed Hornby and Bachmann

track the Class 68 was quite capable of

the box. It seemed very much at

for much of the time.

needs an urgent redesign.

ON TEST

modern ready-to-run models which

least the cheap and nasty way they are

assembled - have become a pet hate of







The model

Dapol

Plastic

744g

Sealed

0.4A

0.8A

One

No

MODEL

271mm

50mm

14mm

40.5mm

37.5mm

14.5mm

68006/68007

4mm:1ft, '00

Metal/plastic

R1 (371mm)

12V DC two-rail

Head, tail, cab interior

Central motor and cardan shafts to gearboxes on both bogies

Four clips above bogies

1:76 SCALE

270mm

50.2mm

14.47mm

N/A

N/A

PROTOTYPE

20.5m

3.82m

1.100mm

N/A

N/A

Subscribe at www.model-rail.co.uk

See instructions

4D-022-005/4D-022-006

reviewed was 68007 Valiant.





















The Class 68 coped well with Hornby

and Peco Setrack and reverse curves

Interestingly, the box label states

unusual for a large, ready-to-run model.

that the Class 68 as suitable for first

It will, indeed, run light engine quite

but the end-throw affects the coupler

coaches and tends to drag them off

the rails. This is in spite of a sprung

The bufferbeam detail, the lights, the

happily round first radius curves,

position in relation to adjacent

cam self-centring system.

roof grilles and fans, the cab

THE BEST BITS

radius (371mm) curves, which is

and crossovers.

application - there are so many good features to this model that it is

sound-fitted version speaks for itself. This is truly the best ready-to-

windshield and roof details, the livery

a very long time. W

21-pin socket

impossible to select any one feature as

the best. Perhaps the fact that I'm

regretting not buying the DCC

run diesel I've seen in



TTLE LOCO COMPANY CLASS 15



PRODUCT Little Loco Company BTH Type 1/Class 15 diesel locomotive

PERIOD 1957-1971

REGION

Eastern

AVAILABILITY Direct, or selected stockists

USE WITH General goods and passenger stock

PRICE rrp £375.00

Looks Performance o 1234 **Features** Decoration Value for money **RATING 90%**



he 44-strong fleet of British-Thompson-Houston (BTH) Type 1 Bo-Bo diesel electrics (later Class 15) was designed primarily for general freight and empty coaching stock duties. Put to work on Eastern Region lines in the London area, they also stretched their legs into rural East Anglia.

Built between 1957-61, and featuring a punchy 800hp Paxman V16 engine, D8200-8243 enjoyed brief working lives. The decline in freight traffic rendered the locomotives surplus to requirements, with withdrawals beginning in 1969.

Four were retained for use as stationary power plants for carriage heating, employed at various depots



all over the UK, until final withdrawal in the early 1980s. The sole survivor, D8233, was saved from scrap in 1984 and is currently under restoration at the East Lancashire Railway.

Geographically limited and with a short lifespan, the Class 15 may not appear to be an obvious subject for a RTR model but, following Heljan's excellent 'OO' version, we now have an even more impressive offering in 7mm scale, courtesy of Little Loco Company.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Constituting Little Loco Company's first foray into RTR models, the Class 15 features a remarkable specification and a very reasonable price. Packed securely in a rugged, foam-lined card box, the model has significant presence. The substantial die-cast chassis provides a serious amount of ballast (nearly 1.5kg), which makes for excellent running and hauling characteristics.

While the model's aesthetics are instantly attractive, so too was the performance, running flawlessly straight from the box. Indeed, the motor and transmission provide a smooth, quiet ride with ample pulling power.

The bogie frames boast an impressive array of moulded relief, with suspension fittings, sanding and brake gear all present and correct. The roller bearing axleboxes even have the SKF markings picked out in red paint. Fuel



filler/drain cocks are installed and the bufferbeams carry the full gamut of brake and control hoses, along with a screw coupling, sprung drawhook and a set of sprung buffers.

The footsteps for the buffer shanks are offered as separate items for the customer to install, and the ends of the bogies are furnished with crossshafts linking the brake pivots, which is a nice touch.

A sturdy, centrally mounted motor drives all four axles via a pair of cardan shafts and nylon gears. A pair of brass flywheels iron out any fluctuations in the motor's revolutions, and a PluX22 socket allows for new-generation DCC decoders to be installed without fuss. Two 34mm speakers come pre-fitted behind the radiator panels on each side of the bonnet and a DCC-fitted option is available (£475), complete with authentic sound files.

ABOVE THE FOOTPLATE

The plastic bodyshell has been moulded to a high standard, free from unsightly seams and boasting crisp detail relief. Embellishments include separate handrails, door handles, lamp LITTLE LOCO COMPANY CLASS 15



section handrails sit along the bonnets and the cab highlight is the fully equipped cab interior, with all necessary controls and cabinets included.

Console dials have all been picked out with needles and markings, as have the AWS 'sunflower' displays. Uniquely, the headcode discs can be folded, just like

the real thing, to show the desired code and, when a suitable DCC chip is installed, each of the small marker lights can be switched on or off to suit the headcodes displayed.

Supplied in a partly decorated state, a set of waterslide transfers is included with numbers, BR logos and all smaller embellishments provided, along with a set of etched builder's plates. The prototype didn't hang around long enough to receive many liveries, so only three variations of BR green are offered: plain green, or green with either small or full yellow ends. Additionally, a limited batch of fully decorated models is available, portraying D8233 in plain green for an extra £20.

VERDICT

For a first attempt at a RTR 'O' gauge locomotive, Little Loco Company has set the bar high in terms of looks, build quality and performance. Hopefully subsequent releases can live up to the impressive standards that have been set (next up is a Ruston '4wDM' 0-4-0).

Purchasers also have the satisfaction of knowing that this model has gone some way to helping towards the restoration of the surviving BTH Type 1, D8233, thanks to a £10,000

292mm Detailed cab interior Slatted louvres Fine roof grille **Brass flywheels**

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

See the Class 15 Preservation Society website for more details of the only surviving BTH Type 1. www.d8233.org.uk

■ Review sample kindly supplied by Trains4U of Peterborough. (Tel: 01733 895989

Web: www.trains4u.com)

LITTLE LOCO COMPANY BTH TYPE I/CLASS 15

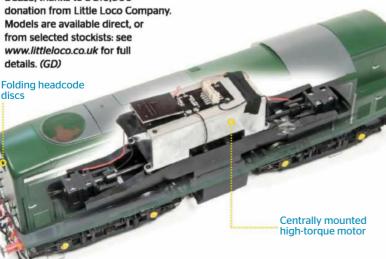
OVERVIEW	
Manufacturer	Little Loco Company
Ref. No.	BTH15/GDB
Unit No.	N/A
Scale/gauge	1:43 scale, 'O' gauge
Body	Plastic
Chassis	Metal with plastic parts
Weight	1.4kg

ELECTRICS Electrical system 12V DC two-rail Motor type Single high-torque motor Lights? Directional head/tail lights, cab interior lights DCC ready? PluX22 decoder socket on chassis, speakers pre-wired

MECHANISM	
Drive system	Cardan shafts and plastic gears drive all four axles
Flywheel(s)	Two, brass
Traction tyres	No

SERVICING			
Mow to dismantle	Body unscrews from chassis		
Where to oil	Plastic gears accessed via plate under bogies		
DIMENSIONS	PROTOTYPE 1:43 SCALE MODEL		

DIMENSIONS	PROTOTYPE	1:43 SCALE	MODEL
Length over buffers	42ft Oin	293mm	292mm
Height	12ft 6in	87.5mm	88mm
Width	9ft 2in	63mm	63mm
Wheel diameter (driving)	3ft 9in	26mm	23.5mm
Bogie wheelbase	8ft 6in	59mm	59mm
Wheel back-to-back	-	-	29.1mm











8 Eigl dec



FIRST REVIEW

GRAHAM FARISH HAWK



PRODUCT Graham Farish 374-610 BR autotrailer crimson & cream

PERIOD 1951-1965

REGION Western

AVAILABILITY
Bachmann stockists

PRICE **PRICE PRICE PRICE PRICE**

ontinuing its policy of translating 'OO' models into 'N' gauge, Bachmann has followed the Graham Farish '64XX' O-6-OPT with its natural partner, the Hawksworth autocoach. Introduced in 1951, the Hawksworth-designed autocoaches were the last new vehicles of their type. Several survive in preservation and one or two have appeared in bogus GWR chocolate and cream, despite the fact that they weren't introduced until after nationalisation.

The first liveries carried by these coaches were either plain crimson or crimson and cream, and our sample carries the latter. The first two coaches released to traffic were almost immediately refitted with bus-style seating and named *Wren* and *Thrush*, but the idea was not perpetuated and subsequent cars appeared with more traditional autocoach seating.

Bachmann's 'OO' model is a fine

rendering of this distinctive push-pull coach with its near-flat sides, big windows, and driver's cab at one end. The 'N' gauge version is every bit as good as its bigger brother and features a clear plastic body with detail in relief and printed with full livery and lining detail. The interior has a correct seating layout and the cab features the regulator and handbrake standard. It would benefit from the installation of a driver and a few passengers.

RIB TICKLED

The bodyside panel ribs which showed up so prominently on the unpainted engineering sample do not look nearly as heavy-handed on the finished model, and the character of the doors to cab, guard's van and the main passenger saloon has been well captured. Shell-type roof vents and some extremely fine rivet lines give the roof a convincing appearance, and the

cab front carries a separate bell, correctly finished in the body colour.

Turn the coach over and there's some pleasing underframe detail, including the folding passenger steps (depicted in the open position) truss



FIRST REVIEW

PECO NARROW GAUGE SLATE WAGONS





PRODUCT

Peco GR-320 2t slate wagons triple pack, unbraked, Festiniog railway grey

REGION

Festiniog Railway (1857-1953), Ffestiniog Railway (1953-present)

AVAILABILITY Peco stockists

DDICE

rrp £29.50

The movement of slate was a prime factor in the development of the narrow gauge railway, so it's fitting that Peco has chosen to add a slate wagon to its rapidly expanding range of 'OO9' rolling stock. The Festiniog was the first railway in the world to employ narrow gauge steam locomotives, so it's also fitting that Peco's new model is of an FR type.

According to author and narrow gauge expert James C. Boyd, the Festiniog Railway (it was only in preservation that the double 'f' spelling was adopted) had 1,095 slate wagons on its books, which were split into three types: wooden (introduced in 1832), small iron (2t capacity, introduced in 1857) and large iron (3t, also introduced in 1857).

The pack received for review is of the unbraked, small iron type (of which the FR has 522). Also available is the braked small iron (117 built) although don't get any ideas about vacuum or air braking - the brakes were all hand-operated!

HOOK AND LOOP

The wagons come in packs of three and they have a simple hook and loop coupling. This is useful as the FR ran lengthy trains of wagons, so the idea of relying on the Bemostyle coupling would be, perhaps, a bit optimistic. Don't despair however, for you can couple your FR slate wagons to other Peco stock, thanks to the two supplied Bemo couplings that replace the hook and loops in their NEM pockets.

Peco's narrow gauge stock is good looking but basic, and the slate wagons are no exception.
They look like the prototype, which is enhanced by the numbers and owner colour codes. The FR served many different quarry companies, so each organization was identified by a colour code, introduced in 1911.
This pack contains a wagon from Maenofferen (white on black),
Oakley (blue) and Greaves (red) quarries. It's a nice touch and beautifully executed.

The slate loads are removable but a bit basic, and the whole fleet would be enhanced by some judicious weathering. That said, they're well produced and, despite their origins, ideally suited to most Welsh narrow gauge layouts. (RF)



RATING 81%





SWORTH AUTOCOAC





Wilder Quick Mask fluid, 50ml AVAILABILITY The Airbrush Company Tel: 01903 767800 Web: www.airbrushes.com

rrp £3.90

New from Wilder is a range of coloured masking fluids, each designed for application, by brush, to any surface. Drying within minutes to a translucent, flexible film, the choice of colours improves visibility when working on coloured surfaces. After painting, the film is simply peeled away, leaving behind no residues.

formulas, and each is compatible with all types of paint.
Recommended. (GD)



PRODUCT

Sankey Scenics Colliery Signage packs.

PERIODS

ANY

1947-1960s, 1967-1987 and 1987-1994

AVAII ARII ITY

www.sankeyscenics. co.uk

PRICE **PRICE 23.25** per pack ('N', 'OO'); rrp £4.9!

per pack ('O')

COAL BOARD SIGNAGE



Modellers with an interest in collieries will be delighted by these packs from Sankey Scenics, offering a range of essential signage for collieries and coal depots across three key eras of post-war UK coal production.

Available in 2, 4 and 7mm scales, the packs are targeted at the immediate nationalised period, from 1947 to the late 1960s, with traditional National Coal Board branding and Victorian-style lettering. The abbreviated NCB era is also covered, with emotive 'Coal not Dole' graffiti for the tumultuous 1970-80s period. Finally, the British Coal corporate identity of

the 1990s is not overlooked.

Each pack provides a handful of location signs, featuring a genericsounding 'North Side Colliery', along with all necessary utility signage, for offices, stores, winding house, bath houses and the like. There are also plenty of warning signs, directions, clock faces and instructions for road and rail vehicles, all rendered in era-specific typefaces and styles.

Printed crisply on good quality paper, they simply require cutting out with a sharp scalpel, the white edges touched in with an ink pen and securing to walls or signposts. Great stuff! (GD)



NEW TOOLS FROM PROSES



PRODUCT

Proses VT-001 DC/ DCC track voltage tester; BS-HO-02 ballast spreader; FT-HO-01 Flexible track holding clamps

AVAILABILITY Bachmann stockists

PRICE VT-001: BS-HO-02: FT-HO-01-



Little of note.

urkish modelling accessory specialist Proses has released a number of new tools that aim to make track laying and wiring easier. One particular innovation is a pair of adjustable clamps for retaining flexible track at a desired radius. Three wing nuts retain the clamp heads that slot perfectly onto 'OO/HO' track, the central clamp then being slid in its slot to form a curve in either direction.

Each 170mm Iong clamp is rendered in tough, clear acrylic and the rails are securely held while track pins are inserted or, if preferred, while the glue sets. Clamps for other track gauges are also available.

The ballasting stage is also catered for by a push-along ballast spreader, sporting a set of 'HO/OO' wheels. The height of the unit above the rails is

ork Modelmaking has

added a bountiful array of

accessories and tools to its

new laser-cut building

range, including an exquisite choice of

windows and roof tiles for 'N', 'OO' and

Detailing or scratchbuilding

a church is made easier with

a selection of window styles

and sizes, each being

lavers to create an

assembled from several

easily adjusted with a locking lever and another lever controls the flow of scatter material.

In use, the tool is simple to operate (a coupling is provided at one end for hauling behind a locomotive!) and the ballast was deposited neatly between

the rails and on either side.

By setting the tool just above rail height and with careful control of the flow,

brush away before applying adhesive. Some physical intervention is needed when pointwork is encountered, but otherwise

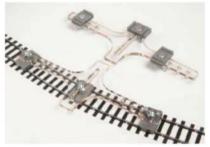
there's virtually no

excess ballast to

this has proved to be an effective, labour-saving device.

To complete the trio, a handy pocket-sized track voltage tester checks whether the rails are receiving power from the controller. Simply press the two metal prongs against





the rail heads and an array of lights reveal how much electricity is being conducted. The red bulb signifies 5-9V, yellow 9-12V and green 12V+. If no bulbs are lit, the tester is registering less than 5V.

This particular unit is designed for use on 'N', 'TT' and 'HO/OO' track and is compatible with DC and DCC systems. A great help when connecting power feeds and isolation sections or when diagnosing faults. (GD)

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY



PRODUCT

Laser-cut sash and ecclesiastical windows: aperture cutting guides: self-adhesive roof tiles; stained glass window material; **Magnetic Mates** clamps

PERIOD Anv

AVAILABILITY

York Modelmaking Tel: 01904 400358. Web: www.york

See text

Impressive details. labour-saving



'O' gauge.

All windows are cut from tough plastic and a handy innovation is a selection of MDF cutting templates to ensure that window apertures are formed accurately and neatly (from £2.00 each).

sash £6.00 per four-pack; O-206 sash

£7.50 per four-pack).

To complement the ecclesiastical windows, printed acetate sheets provide a choice of stained glass patterns to suit 2, 4 and 7mm scales. Each pack offers 200mm by 140mm worth of glazing (£4.00 per pack).

Latest additions to the range of self-adhesive laser-cut roof tiles

includes a set of offset grey slates

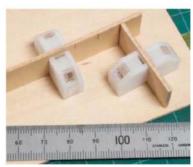
for 7mm scale. producina a suitably ramshackle appearance, ideal for old stone-built cottages or farm buildings (O-TILES10 £7.00). Sets of 4mm scale arched tiles, in a choice of colours, will add a decorative touch to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (OO-TILES08 £6.50), while

a set of rounded tiles will do likewise for 2mm scale models (N-TILESO9 £5.00).

Finally, a new miniature set of Magnetic Mates provides two-pairs of 12mm by 12mm clamps. Aiding the positioning and assembly of wood, card, metal and plastic components, the tools have many uses (MAG-MC2 £12.00). (GD)











model railway company

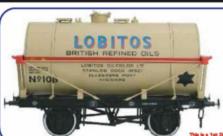
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7F-058-005 - 14T Tank Wagon - Class A Lobitos (Blue/Red Shade) Stone 106

7F-058-001 - 14T Tank Wagon - Class B Shell BP Black 5172

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7F-059-003 - 14T Tank Wagon - Class B Shell BP Black 5133 7F-059-004 - 14T Tank Wagon - Class B Shell Esso Black 1914

7F-058-005 - 14T Tank Wagon - Class B Berry Wiggins Black 101













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2D-007-008/D - Class 66 DB Schenker Red 66114/DCC



Class 67



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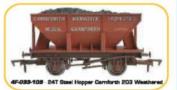
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4D-015-001/D - Class 122 Bubble Car 55002 Blue/Grey Livery/DCC 4D-015-002/D - Class 122 Bubble Car W55000 BR Green with Whiskers/DCC 4D-015-003/D - Class 122 Bubble Car 55012 Regional Railways/DCC 4D-015-004/D - Class 122 Bubble Car SC55013 BR Blue/DCC 4D-015-005/D - Class 122 Bubble Car SC55007 BR Green SYP/DCC











4F-054-001 - IDA Super Low 45 (SL 45) 39 70 490 1000 - 2 4F-054-002 - IDA Super Low 45 (SL 45) 39 70 490 1004 - 4 7F-051-036/W - Brymbo Steel 263/Weathered 7P-004-001 - Autocoach GWR Crest Chocolate & Cream

7P-004-002 - Autocoach GWR Twin Cities Crest Chocolate & Cream 7P-004-003 - Autocoach GWR Shirtbutton Chocolate & Cream 7P-004-004 - Autocoach GWR No Insignia Chocolate & Cream

7P-004-005 - Autocoach BR Crimson

Product Scale Key

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FERRY WAGON DECALS



PRODUCT LNER/Belgian Coal Wagon Transfers

AVAILABILITY
MARC Models
Tel: 0208 440 5918
Web: www.
marcmodels.co.uk

PRICE PRICE

aving carved out a niche for itself in the market for Train Ferry-related rolling stock kits and accessories, MARC Models has released a new set of waterslide decals aimed at wagons in the Société Belgo-Anglaise des Ferry-Boats fleet.

Hired by the LNER for use on continental traffic flows of perishable

or fragile goods, where transshipment would be undesirable, a small fleet of RCH seven-plank opens was modified for European transit via the Harwich train ferry.

The pack contains all necessary brandings and numbers for one complete open wagon. Performing faultlessly under test, each legend has to be cut carefully from the sheet, and each transfer happily

conformed to the undulations of the surface, with the aid of Micro Sol decal setting solution.

Although I only had a nine-plank wagon to hand on which to test the transfers, they clearly look the part and match prototype images very closely. Incidentally, I employed Tamiya XF19 Sky Grey as the livery shade, which appears to be a close match. (GD)





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SPECIAL REVIEW

L BLACK L'A4' 4-6-2



Dapol's new brand offers high-end models without sky-high prices. RICHARD FOSTER tests the first Black Label model to see if it cuts the mustard.



Dapol BL-001-003 Gresley 'A4' 4-6-2 No. 4482 Golden Eagle, LNER lined apple green

PERIOD

1936-Second World War

REGION

East Coast Main Line AVAILABILITY

www.dapol.co.uk

USE WITH

Hornby Gresley/ Pullman coaches Golden Age Gresley/Pullman

PRICE PRICE

Looks Performance Decoration Value for money 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **RATING 91%**

24

he post-David Boyle-era Dapol has always been an innovator. It reinvented itself with its 'N' gauge range early in the new millennium, and has since pushed into the world of inexpensive 'O' gauge, giving us ready-to-run signals, screw-together catenary, magnetic couplers and close-fitting 'N' gauge coach gangways, not to mention some exquisite 'OO' and 'N' gauge diesel and electric models ('Western', Class 22 and, most recently, the Class 68 - see page 14).

Black Label is, therefore, so typically Danol.

I was as surprised as anyone to see a 'OO' gauge LNER 'A4' on its stand at the 2015 Warley National Model Railway Exhibition. Hornby produces arquably the best massRailRoad version, and while not in its current catalogue, even Bachmann's version can still hold its own today. And that's before we start getting into the high-end, museum-quality metal models from the likes of Golden Age. Could the market really sustain yet another 'A4'?

That was until Dapol's Andy Forty explained what this 'A4' actually was. It's not a direct competitor to the Hornby or Bachmann products - or even those from Golden Age. No, this is Black Label, an entirely new venture that bridges the gap between mass-market plastic and exclusive brass. Black Label is for those who want the refinement of a brass model and will be prepared to pay

a few hundred more than a top-spec sound-fitted Hornby product but who can't afford the four-figure sum for brass. It's a speculative move. Dapol readily admits that it doesn't know if there's a market for Black Label, which is why it's chosen the 'A4', as it's arguably the most popular steam locomotive of all time.

But Black Label isn't just a die-cast metal version of a Hornby model. There's an extensive 'spec' list, including lights, sound and smoke.

That pre-production 'A4' looked pretty complete and so, just over a year later, the 'A4s' are in stock. Black Label has arrived.























BLACK BOX

You can tell Black Label has arrived by the box. It's extremely stylish and a cut above the usual model locomotive packaging. Lifting the lid reveals the usual warranty literature, as well as a handsome owner's manual.

Despite its size, the manual is comprehensive and explains what the accessories are and how to use them. It also goes into great detail about how to configure the DCC functions, so you get the best out of them.

You'll find the accessories under the heavy foam lid. You get two bottles of smoke oil (one specially formulated for Dapol units) and a funnel. a replacement driving wheel with traction tyre, another Cartazzi truck (we'll get into this later) plus a bag that contains the cylinder draincocks and the speedometer.

And, tightly wrapped in plastic and paper, is the 'A4'.

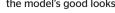
I was pretty impressed with the pre-production 'A4' I saw at Warley. Most importantly, it looked like an 'A4', something aided by its metal construction. There was a lustre and depth to the paint that you can only get with metal, and this complemented the model's good looks.

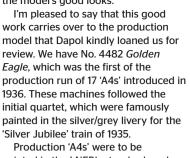
painted in the LNER's standard apple green but, in the event, only six received this colour. From. No. 4489 onwards, the class was painted blue to suit the new 'Coronation' train the LNER had planned, and blue became the standard livery until black was imposed during the Second World War.

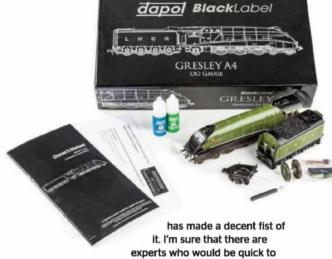
In fact, Golden Eagle was the only 'A4' to receive this version of apple green. Classmates Nos. 4483-87 had black smokeboxes, which was at odds with the locomotive's graceful lines.

TRICKY PROTOTYPE

The 'A4's' complex mix of curves and arcs has proven tricky for model manufacturers to get right, and Dapol







pick holes in the shape, and even I feel that there are one or two questionable areas: the humpback perhaps isn't as pronounced enough, the arc over the splashers doesn't swoop enough, and the casing should, arguably, flare out a little where it reaches the splasher.

That said, I still think it captures the air and the character of the real thing, and that's what matters. I particularly like the area where the firebox changes the angle of the sides and you realize that the sides are flat but gradually curve inwards. Full credit to Dapol for attempting to make the rubber sheet that covered the locomotive/tender gap, but the jury's still out on how effective it looks.

Painting and finishing is often Dapol's Achilles heel, but not here. The apple green has real depth to it. You can't tell the join between the die-cast metal boiler and the plastic cab, and the shading on the numbers and letters is really quite exquisite. Running a fingernail along the nameplate reveals the quality of the etching, so it's a surprise that the worksplate is printed and not an etched part.

The finish isn't perfect, however. A comparison with the model and a works portrait of the real Golden Eagle showed that the arc of the lining around the nose isn't correct and the green ought to extend onto the running plate a bit more than it does. The prototype photograph also highlights that the curve of the boilerside handrails isn't right and that they should sit closer to the 'edge' of the nose.

MARKET POSITION

You have to approach the Black Label 'A4' like a metal version of Hornby's RailRoad brand. That's not meant to diminish Black Label, but to give you an idea of where it sits in the market. O



II THE MODEL MAKES THAT Rey to icons

| Sound option | DCC Factory fitted decoder | NEXT | Socket | NEXT | Socket | Next | N

If you've ever handled an L.H. Loveless or Golden Age 'A4', you'll know that all the doors and hatches open, just like the real thing. You don't get that on Black Label; cab roof ventilators aside, all those types of details are moulded (or cast) as part of the body. It's the difference between a standard Hornby model, with lots of separately fitted detail, compared to a RailRoad model, on which everything's moulded.

If you want an opening cod's mouth door, for example, you have to pay for it, and you'll have to pay much more than the RRP of a Black Label model. With that in mind, you can forgive the rather crude cabside doors, the comparatively basic firebox backhead detail and the little tap on the driver's side, behind the nameplate.

What perhaps isn't forgivable is that, on our sample, the rather flimsy cab fallplate fell off - as I knew it probably would - and the cab glazing came loose. This might be an isolated incident but it would be best to check before you buy.

FEATURE-RICH

What you get, instead of opening doors, are all the bells and whistles and some rather neat innovations. You get sprung buffers front and rear, but only



a tension lock in an NEM pocket on the tender. At the front end, you get a factory-fitted screwlink coupling with no provision for coupling to a train with tension locks from the front. This isn't a problem as it was on very rare occasions - or in the preservation era - that 'A4s' hauled trains tender-first.

The NEM pocket, however, is rather unusual as it pivots, with some spring-loaded wires that press on the tender frames to control the movement.

The locomotive connects to the tender electrically, with a plug and socket connector. At first glance, the physical connection looks like a rather

DAPOL BLACK LABEL 'A4' 4-6-2

SERVICING

OVERVIEW	
Manufacturer	Dapol
Ref. No.	BL-001-003
Unit No.	4482
Scale/gauge	1:76 scale, 16.5mm gauge 'OO'
Body	Metal with plastic parts
Chassis	Metal with plastic parts
Weight	688g
Min. curve radius	R2 (438mm)*
	*With pivoting trailing truck.
	Recommended minimum R3 with fixed truck

ELECTRICS	
Electrical system	12V DC two-rail
Lights?	Yes
DCC ready?	DCC fitted

Worm/gear drive to centre driving axle
Yes, but supplied on replacement driving axle

HOW to distribute	See ilistraction sheet		
Where to oil	Factory lubricated; instructions suggest further lubrication after running in.		
DIMENSIONS	PROTOTYPE	1:76 SCALE	MODEL
Length (over buffers)	71ft 0%in	288mm	295mm

DIMENSIONS	PROTOTYPE	1:76 SCALE	MODEL
Length (over buffers)	71ft 0%in	288mm	295mm
Height (over chimney)	13ft 1in	53mm	54.5mm
Width (over cylinders)	9ft Oin	36mm	36.1mm
Wheel diameter (driving)	6ft 8in	27mm	27mm
Wheel diameter (bogie)	3ft 2in	12.8mm	12.5mm
Wheel diameter (tender)	3ft 8in	15.2mm	14.5mm
Wheel back-to-backs	-	-	14.5mm

THE SHADING ON THE NUMBERS AND LETTERS IS EXQUISITE ***

















manufacturers take note of this. Talking of curves, the 'A4' is fitted with a pivoting rear truck so that it can negotiate second radius curves. This isn't prototypically correct, so Dapol supplies a replacement truck. This has a bit of movement in the truck but the play comes from the axle. The swap is easy (you just need a screwdriver) and though it's not as aesthetically accurate as, say, Hornby's fixed truck, it does enable the locomotive to traverse large radius curves, although after tests on our track, I'd say that Dapol's recommendation of third radius is perhaps a little optimistic - ours struggled on R3 curves but was much happier on R4s.

ON THE LOOSE

We weren't able to run Golden Eagle in as recommended but even so, it was still a good performer. It was a little tight straight from the box but soon loosened up (running in is definitely recommended) and it coped well with our test track. It easily managed 11 Bachmann and Hornby bogie coaches on level track (the traction tyre is only needed if you have heavy, brass coaches). It performed well on the inclines and hauled those same 11 coaches over our 1-in-30 gradient with minimal slipping.

It's the DCC technology that makes the Black Label 'A4' really special. The sounds are really clear and accurate. The model makes that breathy noise so typical of the 'A4s', and that chime whistle is really quite glorious. All the sounds can be fine-tuned and I'd recommend tweaking the rate of 'chuff' to match the speed of the model.

There are two other notable features on the Black Label model: smoke and lights. The factory-fitted lights are guite fine. Yes, the wires are visible under close inspection, but they're not noticeable from normal viewing distances

The lamps are mounted in the

come on when the locomotive moves forward and are complemented by a flickering firebox glow, activated when the coal shovelling sound is selected. The latter is rather neat as it replicates the glow from the ash pan, as well as from the firehole door. Unfortunately, I feel that the headlamp glow is a bit too bright for an oil lamp and seems more like a modern. high-intensity steam headlamp.

There's a little switch under the nose for the smoke generator. Dapol recommends that you don't run the generator without oil in it, so check before you start to use the model as ours was set in the 'on' position out of the box.

SMOKING AREA

Smoke requires quite a bit of experimentation, and I had mixed results in the limited time I had available. I tried both the ordinary and low-odour smoke oils and had greater success with the former. You need a lot of oil to begin with (as per the

instructions) so perhaps I'd been a bit too sparing.

At first, smoke came out from everywhere except the chimney, although there was a pleasing release when F2 (whistle) was selected. However, I did manage to get a puff of smoke from the chimney to correspond with accelerating away from a dead stop, which was rather pleasing. I dare say that with time and careful programming, you could produce a pretty good effect.

It's very hard to criticize Dapol's Black Label 'A4'. That's partly due to the fact that it's a good model and, personally, I think it holds its own against the well regarded Hornby model. But it's hard to criticize when Dapol should really be applauded for trying something different.

Only time will tell if there's a market for Black Label. Given what we've seen with the 'A4', if the concept doesn't take off, it won't be because of any fault with the model. W







ack in the days when I had my Hornby-Dublo train set, my dad bought me a two-aspect colour-light signal.

I already had a couple of semaphores, one of which was electrically operated, but the colour light was so much more exciting, especially if you turned off the lights and played trains in the dark!

When my brother was driving, it was great fun to throw the signal to red at the last second and see how far he would SPAD (signal passed at danger)!

Since then, signals have not figured much on my layouts. 'Black Dog Halt' had the solitary Chippenham home signal, controlled by the fiddleyard operator, and it simply held the train until he had a space for it in the fiddleyard. The train driver had control of a whistle or horn to remind him if he forgot to pull off the signal! On my Canadian layout I have a three-aspect signal in which each of the aspects can show green, amber and red from a single LED, to give the umpteen permutations necessary for the North American system. I had to get my brother-in-law to build the switch unit that operates it. I've never gone beyond a single signal on any of my layouts, largely because electronics and electrical wiring is outside my area of expertise, and I had little prospect of making them work properly.



MODEL

Train-Tech SS1 and SS3 Sensor Signals • Price: SS1 - £40; SS3 - £43

AVAILABILITY

- Gaugemaster Tel: 01903 884488
- Tel: 01 • Web:

www.gaugemaster.

DIFFICULTY ESTIMATED TIME

One hour per two signals

TOOLS NEEDED

- Craft knife
- Tweezers
- PliersWire cutters
- Liquid poly cement
- Paintbrush
- Soldering iron (optional).

LIGHT FANTASTIC

However, when Train-Tech offered me the chance to try out its new sensor signals, the only suitable test-bed was my 'Polwyddelan' layout. The prospect of having working signals alongside the buffer stop lights and station lamps really appealed although, in reality, it is unlikely that a modern single-track branch would have such signalling. The sensor signal does just as its name implies. Its default position is to display green, but the moment a train passes over the tiny light sensor, the signal turns to red, just as it would on the real railway. It will default back to green after a set time period but, if it's linked to a second signal, it will remain red until the second signal is passed and then, if it is a three-aspect signal, cycle Very simple through amber to green after installation and minimal wiring.

a preset interval. What really appealed to me Some anomalies in operation is the ease of installation. if used on particularly on a DCC layout, single line. although it is not significantly more difficult on analogue. There is minimal wiring to be done, and you can add such extras as a manual override, mimic displays on your control panel, or add additional signals without disrupting what you've already installed. There are a couple of important considerations to

bear in mind, however. The signal needs to be accurately positioned so that the light sensor detects the passing train and is not affected by strong light from elsewhere, and there must be good, reliable power connection. On DCC, the power connection is from the track, while analogue users will solder power connection to the signal.

RETRO-FIT

I did face one small disadvantage.
My layout is nearing completion. In order to fit the signals in appropriate locations, I would need to modify small areas of scenery, so the first job was to find locations that would cause minimum disruption to finished work.

The two locations were obvious, one at the platform end and the other close to the fiddleyard entrance. This had the advantage that both signals would be on the same baseboard section, so there would be no need for more inter-baseboard wiring.

The signal at the platform end would be teetering on the edge of an embankment, so it

would be necessary to install a small concrete plinth for it to stand on. This could be purely cosmetic, and fitted after the signal was installed, tested and working correctly.

HOW TO DO IT: INSTALL THE SENSOR SIGNAL



I needed to find a location for the signal. In DCC use, the two long fingers with contact strips fit under the rails and between the sleepers. I selected adjacent sleepers where the gaps would be easy to clear of ballast.



I had ballasted with cork granules and diluted PVA glue, so it was an easy job to clear out two adjacent sleeper gaps. Every scrap of ballast needs to be removed and there must be no lineside obstructions to the contact fingers.



Once I had loosened the ballast I used a portable vacuum cleaner to remove debris. It will be much more straightforward if you plan for the signals from the start! Ensure that the track is switched off before installing the signal.



I needed to remove a small grassy knoll to fit the signal. It will be replaced with a concrete plinth on which the signal will appear to stand. A small block of plaster-coated balsa should do the iob.



With most Setrack and flexible track, the two contact fingers can be located under the rails and pushed under the far rail until the sensor is tight up against the sleeper and both strips are under the rails. Don't push on the post or head.



The contact fingers can be a bit of a loose fit under Peco track so they should be packed underneath, if necessary, to ensure good contact. Alternatively, you can do as I did and carefully solder the contacts to the rails.



The signal is supplied with a 1 metre length of wire with which to link two signals together. The wire fits into the output (back) socket of the signal base, linking it to the input (front) socket of the next signal. No soldering necessary!



Time to switch on the power and test. The signal should immediately light up green. The linking wire could be taken under the baseboard, but I chose to conceal it on top.



As soon as a locomotive passes above the sensor, the change in light level switches the signal to red. It is more suited to layouts where trains only pass in one direction, as it will go green again after a short while.

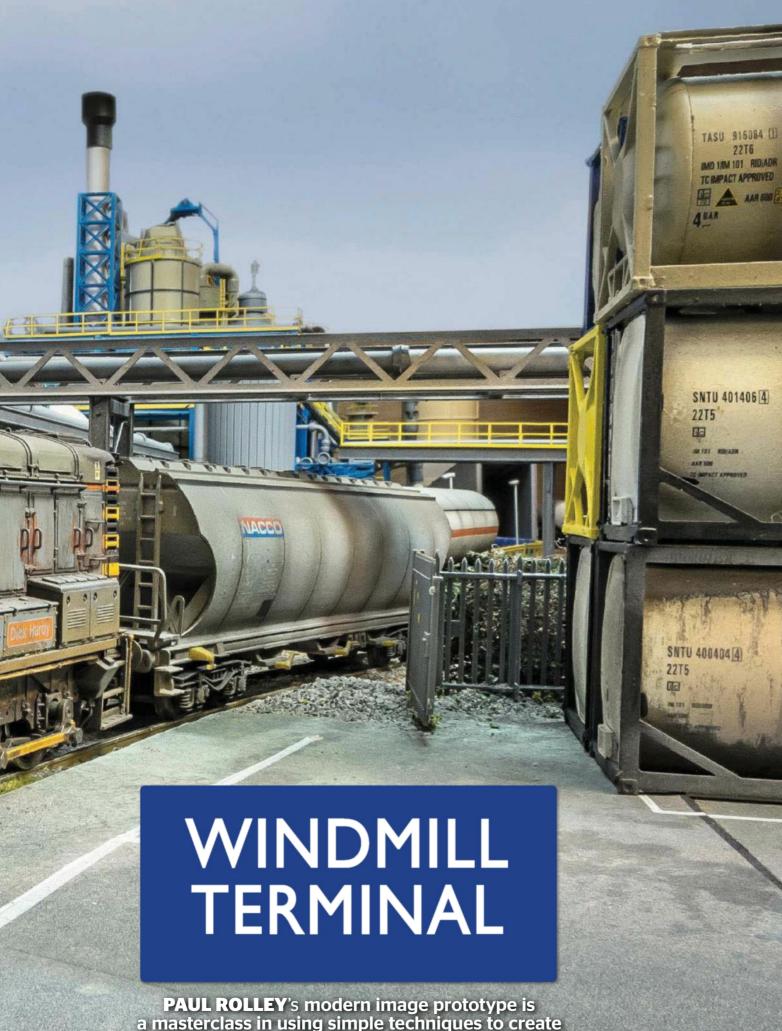


The second signal switches to red as the locomotive passes, allowing the previous signal, which is a three-aspect unit, to switch to amber and then to green. The green would then continue to show until the next train passes which, on a single track, could be in the wrong direction. You can use Train-Tech's mimic switch to override this and switch it to red. On this layout, such a switch could be used to control access to the fiddleyard via this signal.



A four-aspect colour light signal on the Up line at Kings Sutton on the approach to Aynho Junction. CHRIS LEIGH





a masterclass in using simple techniques to create something that's far more than the sum of its parts.

Words: MIKE HARRIS

aul Rolley describes
'Windmill Terminal' as
a "very simple layout", but
I'm not buying it... How can
a model railway that's as beautifully
realised as this be considered simple?
And yet, as Paul reveals his method,
I'm forced to backtrack - his modesty
is well founded.

The model represents the chemical plant in Barry, South Wales, and is arguably one of the most realistic modern image layouts you're likely to see. It's also proof that realism doesn't have to involve pinpoint accuracy and complicated modelling methods.

COPYCAT MODELLER

Paul is adamant that if you're striving for model making simplicity, the best place to start is by building a prototypical location: "It's easier to model a real place," he says. "You can go out and take hundreds of photographs - you just can't beat first-hand experience and your own photographic reference."

And if you choose to model a building or location that's nearby, you have the opportunity of visiting whenever you need to check something. Luckily for Paul, he passes the chemical plant on his way to work, so sourcing images and maintaining the inspiration was never a problem. Even the panoramic backscene is a photograph of the real backdrop.

"It was taken on a Sunday morning," says Paul. "I took about 20 photographs, each overlapping by about 20% so as not to miss anything out." If you're wondering what vantage point he used to capture such imagery, Paul clambered atop his van. In the interests of safety, Model Rail advises you not to do that!

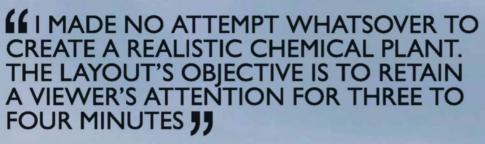
LOW STOCK

The realistic nature of the layout does mean that Paul's choice of stock is limited if he is to run the layout prototypically.

"As per the real location, the whole \bigcirc







layout operates on the premise that only one train runs per day, and it's a container train," explains Paul. "Because of this, some people may find it slightly lacking in terms of action."

But thanks to the explosion of micro layouts on the exhibition circuit, layouts which feature only one or two forms of motive power are now commonplace, and besides, 'Windmill Terminal's' charm is in its scenery,



layout used to accommodate a shunting locomotive, either a Sentinel 0-4-ODM, '09' or '08'. However, the real terminal has since tasked the main line locomotive with shunting duties, and Paul has followed suit.

ODDBALL

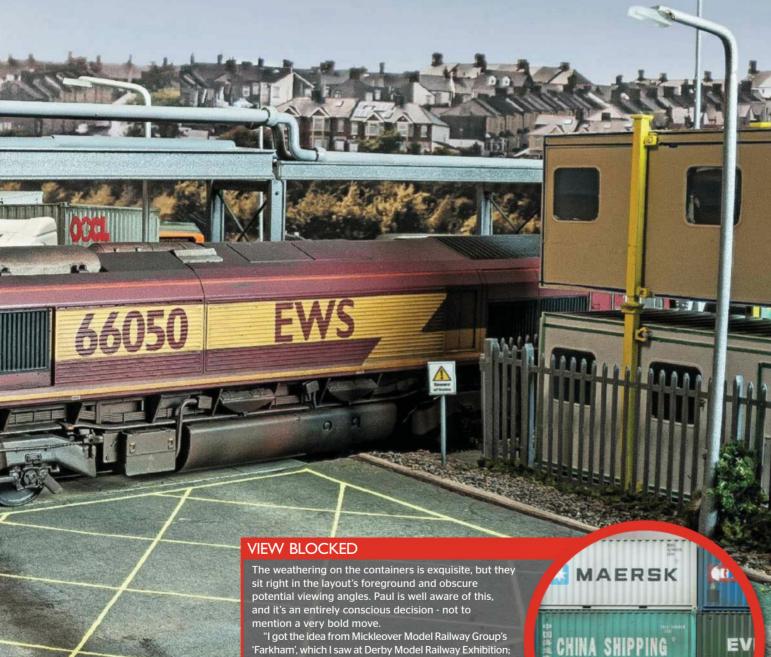
Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed a small Trackmobile railcar mover. It's an 'HO' Broadway Limited model, with a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway emblem. At one time, a Trackmobile unit did operate at the chemical plant, and Paul still uses it today to add variety.

"It's DCC fitted," says Paul. "But it's too small for me to install a 'stay alive' unit inside, so it has to shunt at speed when clearing the crossing."

Paul has faithfully recreated '66' 66050 EWS Energy, and was lucky enough to get within feet of the prototype to source imagery. He explains: "For the train to reach the container terminal, it has to cross several public highways, so the locomotive runs right across the streets - something you often see in America. Because of this, I was able to shoot and snap some excellent video and photography."



Hapag-Lloyd



'Farkham', which I saw at Derby Model Railway Exhibition; a tower block in the foreground partially obstructs the view of the railway. I really liked the idea of observers having to

The containers comprise Hornby, Bachmann, and Dapol

ready-to-plant pieces (re-sprayed, given some replacement transfers and weathered). Paul has also built some containers

move around the tower block to get a better view."

using C-Rail-Intermodal kits.

CHEMISTRY CLASS

The chemical plant itself is the focal point of the entire layout and a hugely impressive feat of modelling in itself. It also happens to be one of the few elements that is not meticulously modelled as per the prototype.

"The phrase I use is 'impressionist modelling'," Paul explains. "I made no attempt whatsoever to create a realistic chemical plant. The layout's objective is to hold a viewer's attention for three to four minutes. As such, implementing details that might take a viewer 20 minutes to spot just wasn't worth my time."

Paul's philosophy is flawed - but in a good way. You can become entirely absorbed studying the intricacies of the chemical plant alone, and for far longer than just four minutes! Paul credits the stunning nature of the model to the baron of scratchbuilding himself, Allan Downes.

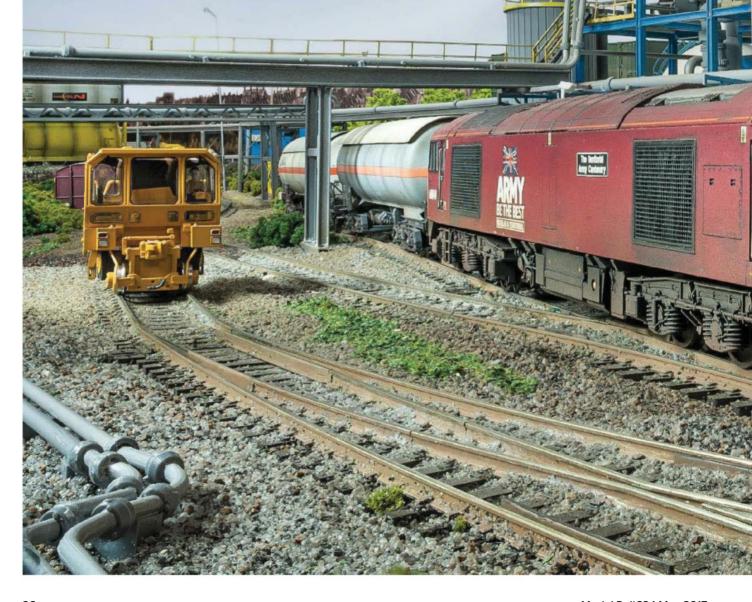
"It's very much built as an homage to the model of Scunthorpe Steelworks that Allan built a few years ago," he says. Paul planned the layout using computer design software, but with the track laid, many of the details acquired, and trains running, the chemical plant was nowhere to be seen. Paul explains: "I had the footprint for the structure ready to go, but I still hadn't started the build."

Paul was faced with a slight problem: close-up images of chemical plants aren't easily acquired, but a flick through past Allan Downes articles soon armed him with enough inspiration to remedy the situation.

Allan is famed for his ability to incorporate unaltered household objects into his builds - a method Paul was keen to replicate. Luckily, he was offered a helping hand:
"A friend of mine, Barrie Jones, provided me with a huge bag of useful household objects and components from old kits that he'd acquired at swap meets."



These random components, combined with two Walthers Skyscraper Construction Site kits, provided Paul with enough materials to start building the plant. He says: "With the Walthers kit forming the frame, I simply tried out various household objects, and if they didn't look right I'd rearrange or remove them. The whole process took about three months."





GRASS ROOTS

From the intricate chemical plant to the impressively observed road markings, 'Windmill Terminal' is an extremely detailed model. One element that stands out is the amount of vegetation present on the layout. It's something that's not immediately associated with contemporary industrial layouts, but Paul considers it essential.

"It's primarily there to obscure fiddleyard sections hidden behind the chemical plant, but you'll find vegetation - grass, weeds, brambles and shrubs - in and around most industrialised areas."

Cheap £1.50 gel pens have been used to create the road markings, with the road itself purchased and downloaded from Scalescenes and printed onto suitable paper. Paul uses adhesive mounting spray to fix the road surface. Overlapping sections of Tarmac are cleverly hidden with masking tape sprayed with a mix of grey and black acrylic, to replicate fresher patches of road surface.

SIMPLY THE BEST

From shoehorning unaltered household objects into the chemical plant to disguising the flat base with 'view blockers' and infrastructure, Paul has thought carefully about how to execute each and every process in the simplest manner possible.

This can't be categorised as merely a 'simple layout', it's a truly stunning



build that's expertly modelled. But what Paul has done is use surprisingly simple techniques to achieve beautiful results.

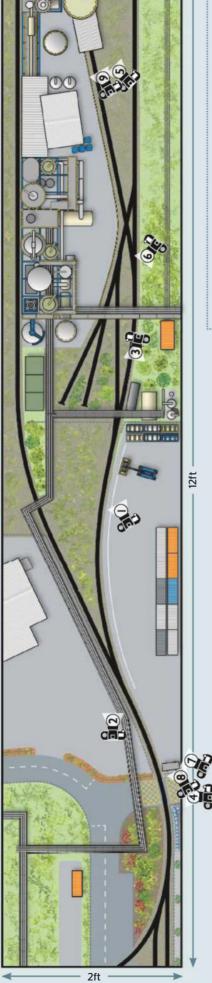
There's a lot to take from 'Windmill Terminal'. So, the next time you're struggling with a build, stop and ask yourself: 'does it really have to be this complicated?'

Below: According to Paul, removing the containers and chemical plant reveals just how flat 'Windmill Terminal' is - one of the reasons why he believes it to be such a simple layout.





TERMINA W N N



Gauge & scale: 4mm:1ft scale, 16.5mm gauge, '00'

Time to build: 8 to 10 months Period: Present day

Power & control: DCC **Buildings:** Scratchbuilt **Prototype:** Barry chemical plant **Size:** 12ft by 2ft

Locomotives: Detailed and weathered RTR Rolling stock: RTR (some modified) Track: Peco Code 100

Things you might have missed



No longer prototypical, the Sentinel 0-4-0DH makes for motive power variety during the photoshoot.



have been resprayed, handles have been Bachmann Scenecraft Aggregate Bags added and aggregates glued on top.



simulating the working chemical plant. The layout is packed with cameos,

Weathered and with custom transfers, the containers really look the part.

Showcase 2017. Where is it? Town Hall, Burton-on-'Windmill Terminal' will make its last appearance before retirement at the DEMU Trent, Staffordshire DE14 2EB. When is it? June 3 and 4.



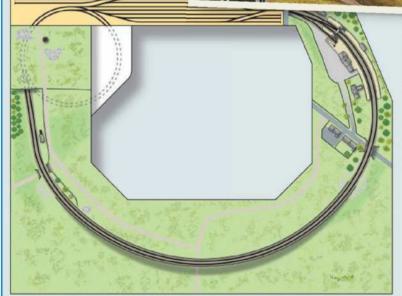


THE 'LONG DRAG' Max. gradient 1-in-100 The Settle & Carlisle's vital

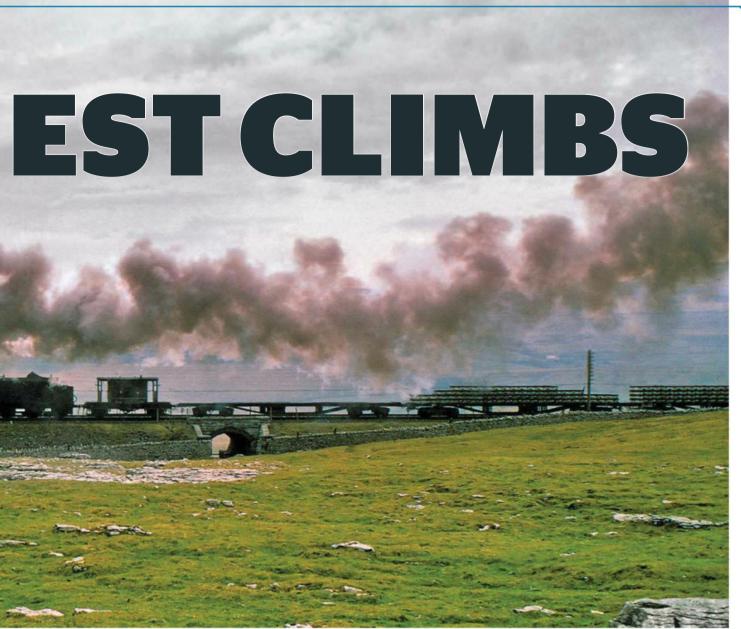
statistics are impressive. It has 21 viaducts, 14 tunnels and a ruling grade of 1-in-100 over much of the line. Yet the railway has a darker side: over 200 men were killed during its construction, the 'Long Drag', from Settle to the summit at Ais Gill, took a heavy toll on engines and crew, and the job of signalman at Blea Moor - a mile or so from the nearest road - has to be one of the most unenviable on the railways.

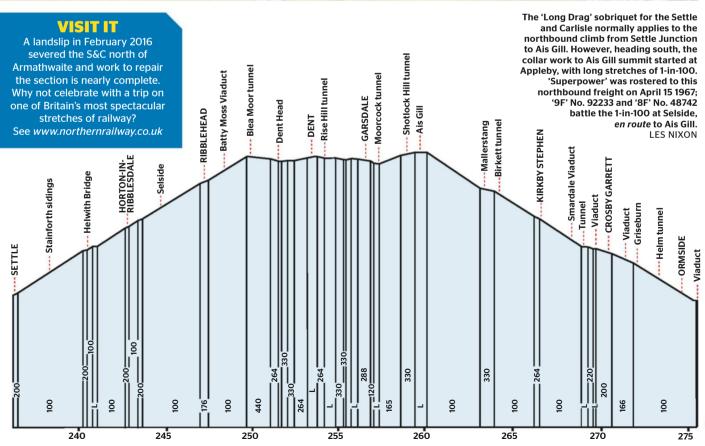
In a sense, this is a line that should never have been built: it was only the Midland Railway's desperation to have its own route from London to Scotland that forced the construction of a railway here. But the S&C forces you to appreciate the physical effort that went into building a Victorian railway. The navvies' pickaxes must have seemed like toothpicks against the vast grandeur of the moors.

Layout idea



Allen Pearson's superb 'N' gauge re-creation of Ribblehead. Sadly, the only way to enjoy this layout is to track down a copy of the April 2015 issue of Model Rail - the layout was damaged beyond repair after a tree fell on Allen's model railway room. CHRIS NEVARD



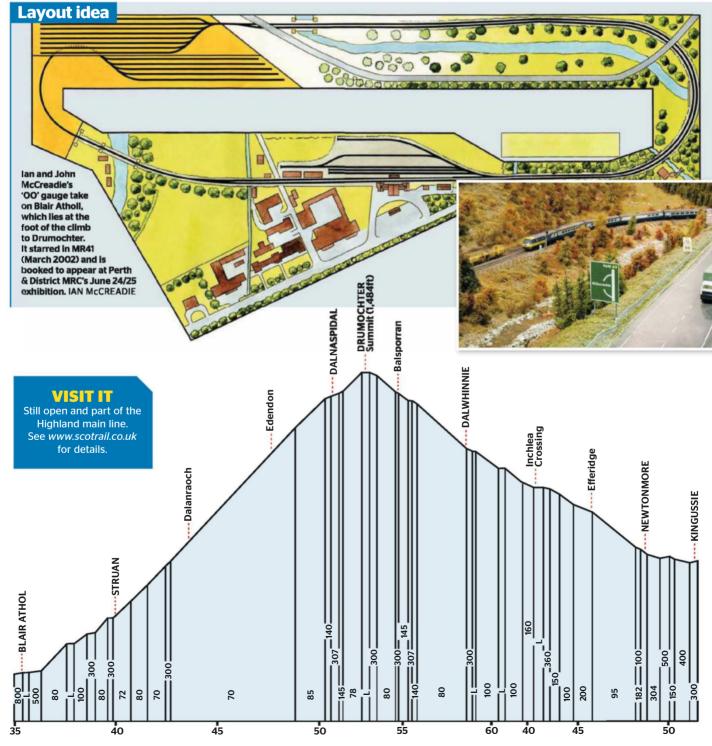


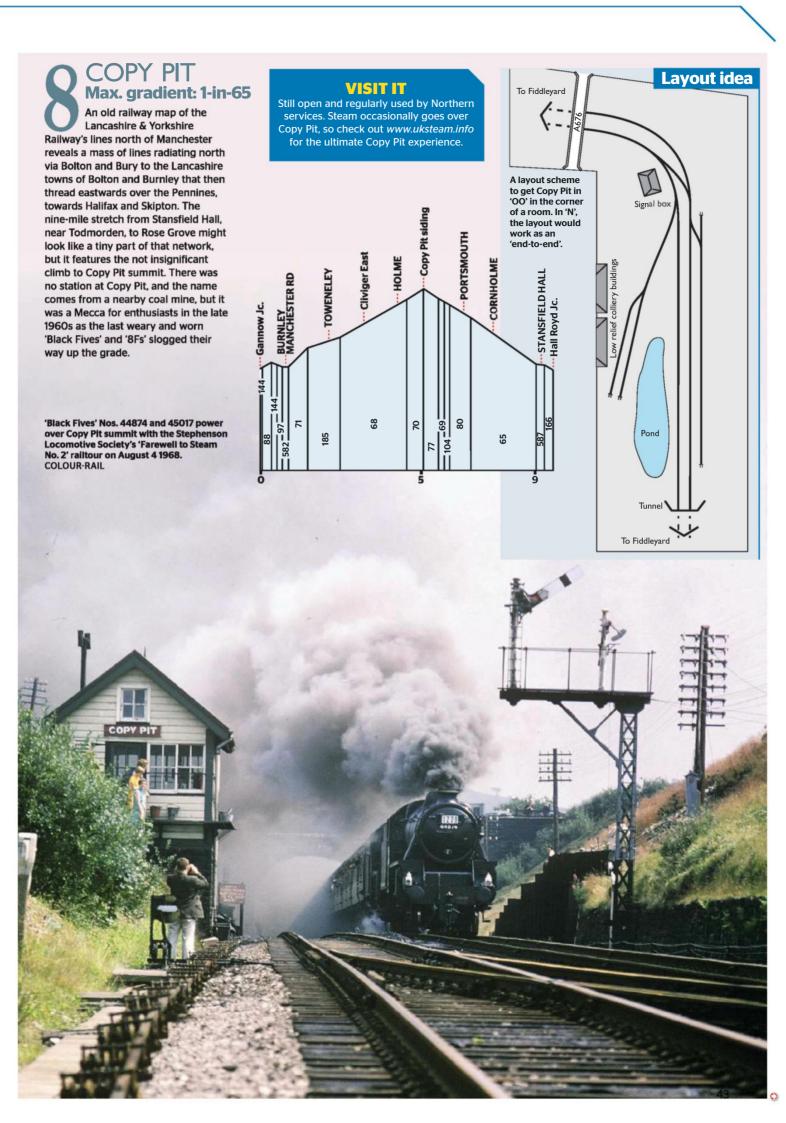
DRUMOCHTER Max. gradient: 1-in-70

Scotland, that land of bare mountains, dramatic passes and breathtaking lochs features some similarly exciting stretches of railway. The Highland Railway featured quite a few, as it pushed towards the very tip of the mainland. Dava and Slochd are impressive, but none more so than Drumochter. It's a bleak place and even in a car, on the A9 dual carriageway, it feels remote. But it's a beautiful remoteness, as befits the highest point on Britain's railway network, at 1,484ft. Nowhere else symbolises the epic showdown of man and machine battling against the forces of nature.

An unidentified 'Black Five' powers north near Dalnacardoch on May 30 1950. An ex-Caledonian Railway Pickersgill 4-4-0 gives the lengthy goods train a hand as it makes its way to the highest point on Britain's rail network at Drumochter.







WOODY BAY

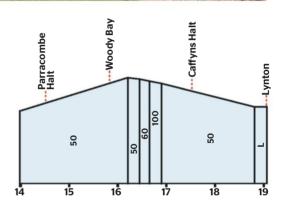
Max. gradient: 1-in-50 Compared to the ruggedness of North Wales, the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway is a fluffy teddy bear of a narrow gauge railway. Rolling hills, chocolate box stations, flowers, sheep and a seaside terminus... sounds idyllic doesn't it? But the L&B was a hard railway to work.

It was uphill all the way from Barnstaple, with a ruling grade of 1-in-50. A small chunk of this lovely little railway has been preserved - the highest part of the line, near Woody Bay which, at 980ft above sea level, is the highest station in southern England.



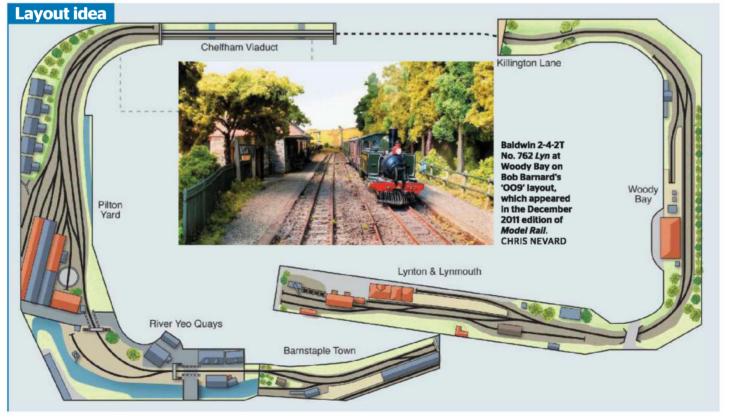
Above: Bagnall 4-4-0T Charles Wytock climbs the 1-in-50 to Woody Bay with the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway's rake of four restored coaches in 2015. NDPHOTOS/ALAMY

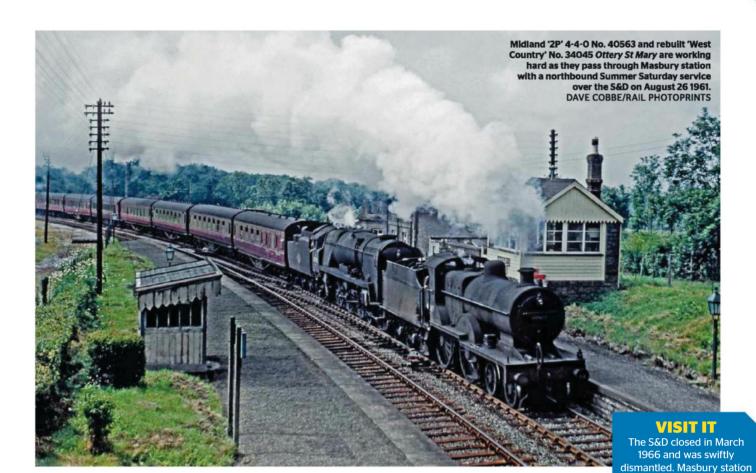
Left: A Lynton & Barnstaple Railway train departs Woody Bay station, in a picture that clearly shows the steepness of the gradient; the headshunt on the left is on the level. NDPHOTOS/ALAMY



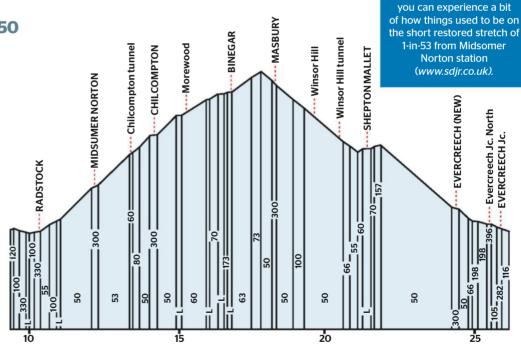


VISIT ITThe only part of the L&B to be re-opened is the highest section. See www.lyntonrail.co.uk to organise your visit.

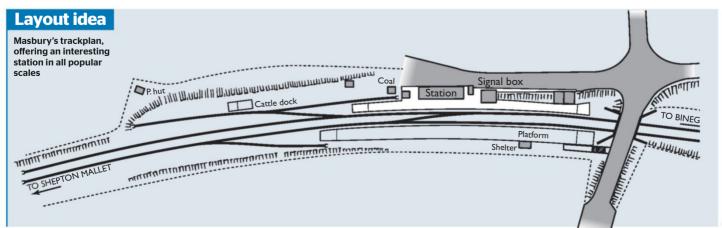




MASBURY Max. gradient: 1-in-50 How far would you go to ensure the survival of your railway? The Somerset & Dorset Railway's main line from Burnham-on-Sea to Wimborne in Dorset was not making enough money, so the company made one last-ditch effort: pushing a line north from Evercreech, over the Mendips, to Bath. The gamble didn't pay off, and the company was taken over by the LSWR and the Midland. Crossing the Mendips was akin to crossing the Pennines in many ways, and the S&D's engineering was strikingly similar to that of the Settle & Carlisle. There were viaducts, tunnels and, of course, a stiff climb; the S&D's 'Long Drag', north from Radstock and south from Evercreech, culminated at Masbury -811ft above sea level.



building still survives, but



HEMERDON
Max. gradient: 1-in-41

The Great Western Railway's South Devon main line is at complete odds with the London-Bristol route. Brunel engineered the latter to be as level as possible, to ensure high speeds. In Devon, he had some very hilly terrain to conquer, so he turned to an experimental system which literally sucked the train over the hills; unfortunately, the atmospheric railway system wasn't a success. The GWR had inherited the South Devon Banks - Dainton, Rattery and Hemerdon, of which the latter is the toughest: eastbound trains start cold from Plymouth and then face a gruelling climb at 1-in-42. It's a particularly difficult section for steam, as former WCRC Traction Inspector Ray Churchill explained to Steam Railway magazine: "Hemerdon is the real challenge as



you're hitting the bottom with a cold

engine."

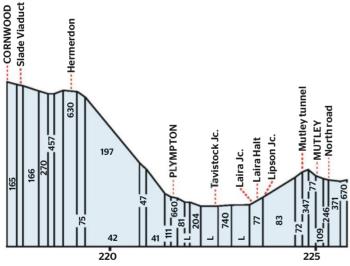
There's one vantage point for Hemerdon - a small overbridge not far from Dartmoor Zoo (www. dartmoorzoo.org.uk). Alternatively, book a seat on the Great Western service and enjoy the South Devon banks from inside the train.

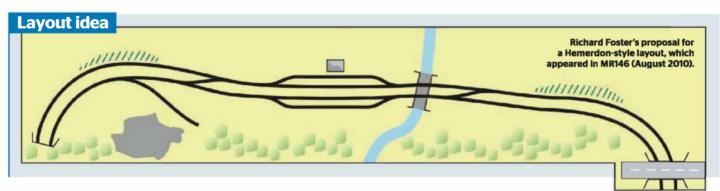


The GWR's 4-6-0s were designed to provide maximum adhesion over the South Devon banks. 'Castle' No. 4098 *Kidwelly Castle* pilots 'King' No. 6016 *King Edward V* on Hemerdon with the Up 'Cornish Riviera' on June 20 1958.
TREVOR OWEN/COLOUR-RAIL

Right: This 1973 photograph shows Hemerdon Loop sidings looking towards Exeter. There's plenty of detail, including signals, catchpoints and - due to the introduction of continuously welded rail - breather switches. CLASSIC TRACTION









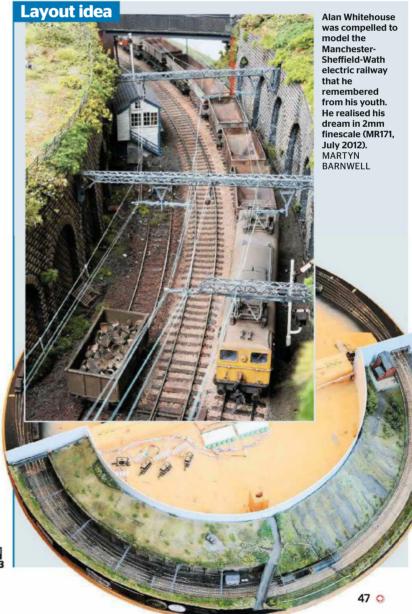
WORSBOROUGH Max. gradient: 1-in-40

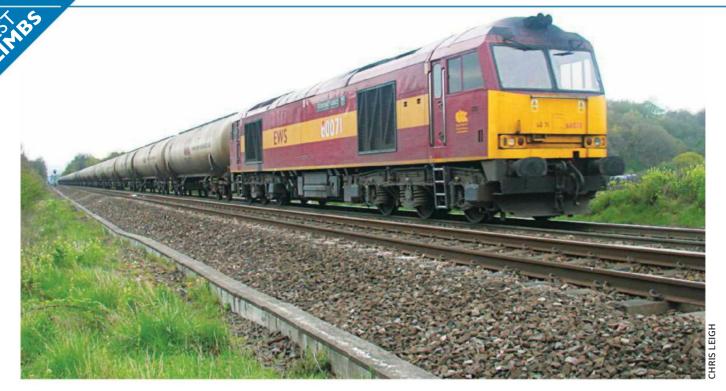
You'd think that crossing the Pennines would make the Manchester-Sheffield 'Woodhead Route' a challenging one but, surprisingly, only some very short sections of the climb to and from the summit are steeper than 1-in-100. However, the branch to Wath is definitely worthy of inclusion. This joined the Great Central Railway's Woodhead Route via junctions at Silkstone and Penistone, and it not only provided rail access to a few collieries but also a useful bypass around Barnsley for the seemingly endless procession of coal trains from Wath yard.

It was always freight-only and extremely challenging to work. And it's why Nigel Gresley built the LNER's sole Garratt, No. 2395, to provide power for the seven-mile Worsbrough bank, with its three miles of 1-in-40.

VISIT ITThe Manchester-Sheffield-Wath line was West Silkstone Jc. electrified in 1953 and closed in 1981. Barnsley Jc. Happily, the trackbed has been incorporated into the Dove Valley Trail path. Kendall Green Crossing Glasshouse Crossing Lewden Crossing --Wombwell Main Jc. Aldam Jc. --WATH ROAD MOOR DARFIELD MAIN Elsecar Jc. 105 100 2 136

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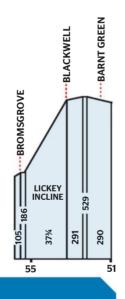




LICKEY INCLINE Max. gradient: 1-in-373/4

The Lickey Incline is something special. It's arguably unique among main line climbs as it's called an 'incline' rather than a 'bank'. This terminology reflects the extreme nature of the task that faces northbound trains, with two miles of uninterrupted 1-in-37¾ to negotiate between Bromsgrove and Blackwell.

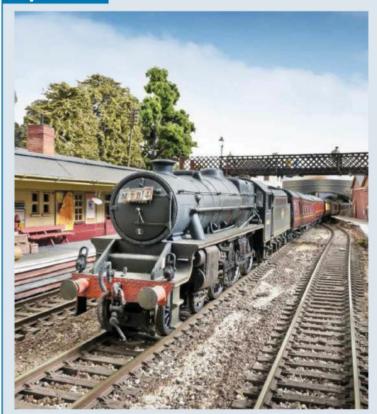
Of course, there are steeper main line gradients - the short section of 1-in-36 on the climb to Dainton, for example, but nothing matches the sheer slog of the Lickey. It's one of the few locations in Britain where you can still find locomotives regularly used on banking duties. You won't notice them too much, however, in the air-conditioned comfort of a 'Voyager'.

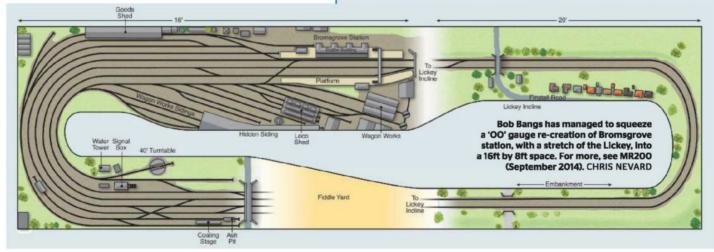


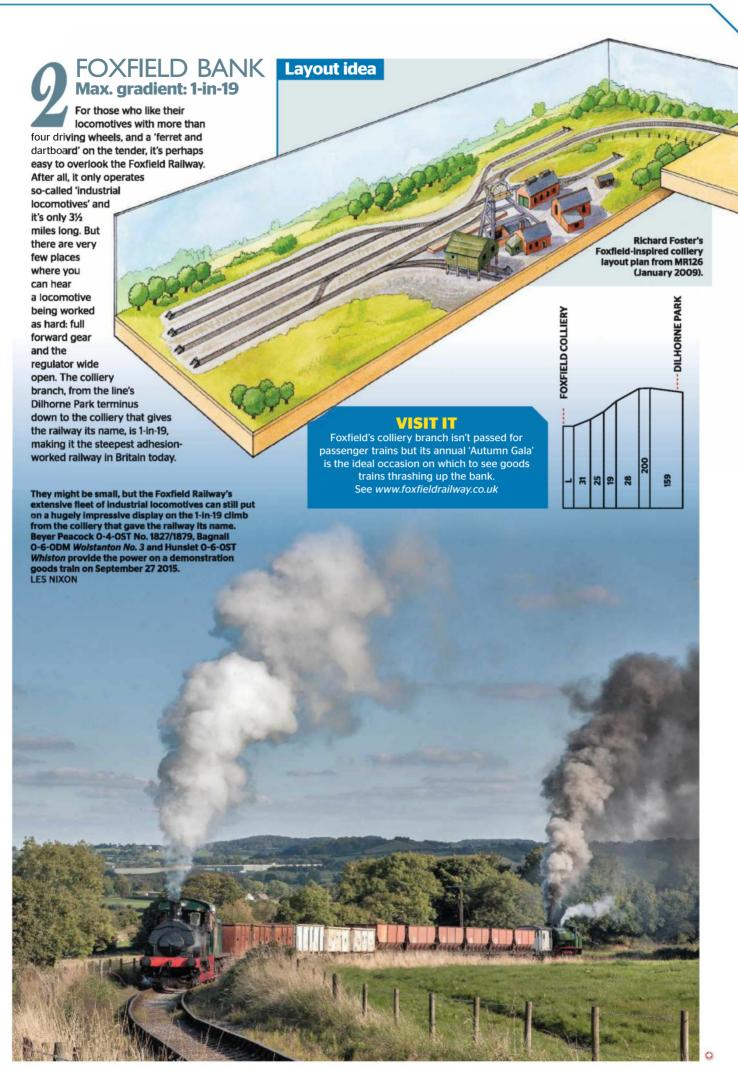
VISIT IT

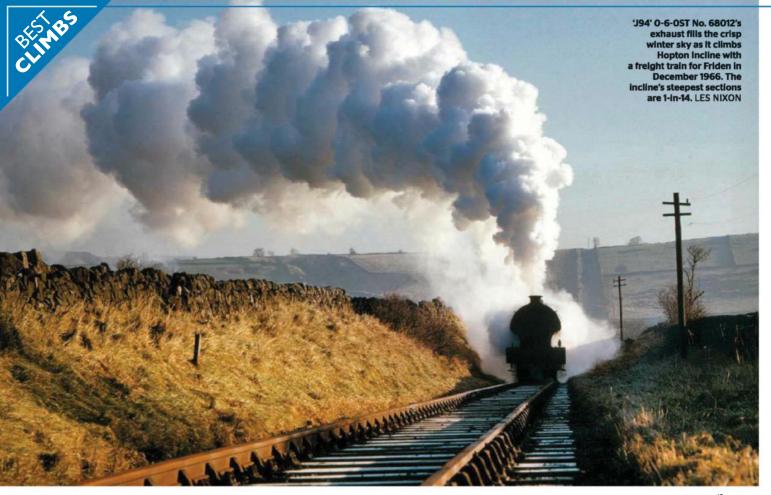
There are a couple of vantage points from which you can observe trains on the Lickey, but the best one is a footpath near Vigo Bridge, where the railway crosses the B4076 road. The path leads to a good vantage point, from which you can safely view the railway.

Layout idea









HOPTON INCLINE Max. gradient: 1-in-14

The Cromford & High Peak
Railway was built at a time when
locomotives weren't regarded as
a primary source of motive power.
The rocky Derbyshire landscape
provided engineer Josias Jessop with
a huge challenge: the line had to climb
nearly 1,000ft from Cromford to the
summit at Ladmanlow, dropping over
750ft in eight miles to Whaley Bridge.

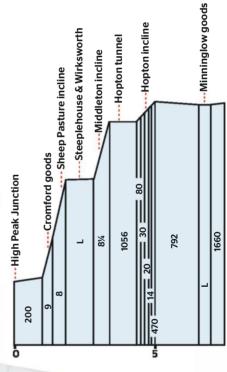
Stationary engines were provided to haul wagons up the numerous incline planes, and horses would do the rest. The railway was altered for locomotive haulage, and while some rope-worked inclines remained, Hopton Incline became adhesion worked - a considerable feat, considering some parts of it are as steep as 1-in-14!

VISIT IT

The CHPR closed in 1967, but the trackbed is now the High Peak Trail.

Spend a day walking along it, imagining what it must have been like on the footplate of a 'J94'.





Layout idea

'J94' No. 68006 draws a train over the kip on Robin Whittle's 'P4' take on Sheep Pasture incline (MR171, July 2012). CHRIS NEVARD



HOLLOWAY BANK

A gradient of 1-in-107 is child's play compared to some of the others listed here, but from a standing start at London King's Cross, it provided one of the stiffest tests on the whole of the East Coast Main Line. LNER directors were left open-mouthed when GWR No. 4079 Pendennis Castle marched confidently up Holloway Bank, through Gas Works and Copenhagen tunnels, in 1925...

'A3' No. 60063 Isinglass makes a spectacular sight on Holloway Bank with the Down 'White Rose' in 1950. F.R. HEBRON/ RAIL ARCHIVE STEPHENSON

10 BEST OF THE REST

SEVERN TUNNEL

Tunnels are usually built to avoid going up and over hills, so why is one included here? Railway tunnels under rivers are few and far between, but in order to go under a river, you have to drop down to sea level - and then go down even further. The Severn Tunnel is the highest profile under-river tunnel. The top of the bore was 30ft (now 50ft) below the lowest part of the river bottom, so there are gradients of 1-in-100 and 1-in-90 either side of the lowest part of the tunnel.

Steve Fay's superb 'O' gauge model of the Severn Tunnel, which will appear in *Model Rail* later in the year. CHRIS NEVARD



SHAP

Pity William Stanier when he had to design a high-speed locomotive for the West Coast Main Line - he had to combine the speed of a racehorse with the pulling power of an ox to cope with WCML's challenging terrain. Beattock is probably the stiffer test - ten miles in the 1-in-70s - but Shap is arguably the most photogenic, particularly as it was in the late 1960s when grubby steam locomotives provided a helping hand on the four-and-a-bit miles of 1-in-75 north of Tebay.

A fine shot of 'Black Five' No. 44727 with a Down freight at Greenholme, Shap, being banked by an unidentified Standard '4MT' 4-6-0 in July 1966. LES NIXON

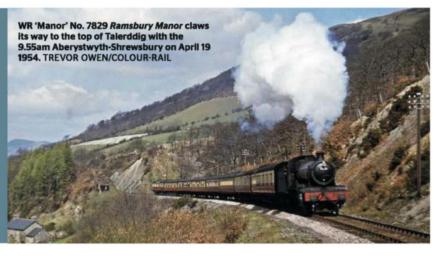
Gresley 'V2' No. 60813 bursts from Whitrope Tunnel in April 22 1965. The crew can now rest as it's downhill all the way to Hawick. TREVOR OWEN/COLOUR-RAIL

WHITROPE

The Victorians believed that they could conquer any landscape and railway promoters were no exception. demanding the terrain was - if you could steal a march on your competitor, then the railway would be built. This was typified by the North British Railway, which drove its line (dubbed the Waverley Route) across the border lands from Edinburgh to Carlisle, including the 22-mile stretch from Hawick to Newcastleton that climbed to 1,006ft and dropped back again.

TALERDDIG

Wales is not a flat country either, and one of the hardest climbs was eastbound from Machynlleth. Starting out from almost sea level, the former Cambrian main line climbs for nearly 14 miles to Talerddig, with the two miles at 1-in-52 being the hardest stretch. The world's deepest rock cutting was dug here to smooth out the climb.



UPWEY

Coastal towns needed rail access, but they were usually at a lower level than the surrounding landscape. Weymouth was typical of this, and the line from Dorchester dropped at quite a rate. Job done for southbound crews, but what goes down must go up, and returning crews had to tackle five miles of 1-in-74/1-in-50 and 1-in-52!

Below: The bottom of a 1-in-52 gradient is not the best place to put a station, but that didn't to put a station, but that didn stop the GWR from building Upwey Wishing Well Halt on Upwey Bank. Standard '5MT' No. 73020 digs its heels in before the climb on May 20 1967. R. PATTERSON/ COLOUR-RAIL



EXETER

Exeter has two stations, the ex-Southern Region Central and the Western Region St David's. They're connected, which gave the Southern access to Devon and Cornwall. The problem was the difference in height between the two; the gradient is 1-in-37 and on a curve, which required banking in steam days, and is still an operational headache, particularly in leaf-fall season.

Maunsell 'W' 2-6-4T No. 31924 lends a hand to the 'Atlantic Coast Express' on the 1-in-37 climb from Exeter St David's to Exeter Central on August 22 1963. G. PARRY COLLECTION/COLOUR-RAIL



MORTEHOE

The Barnstaple to Ilfracombe branch was a vital link in the chain of moving scores of holidaymakers from London to the North Devon coast. The line's summit was at Mortehoe, northbound trains having climbed the 1-in-40/1-in-41, while southbound trains tackled the 1-in-36 straight from llfracombe station.

Mortehoe was a stiff climb whichever way you approached it. The photographer has not recorded which way 'West Country' No. 34104 Bere Alston is headed in July 1959, but it's certainly working hard. DEREK CROSS/COLOUR-RAIL

TRALEE & DINGLE

Ireland's most heavily graded railway was the 3ft gauge Tralee & Dingle, a line held in as much regard as the Lynton & Barnstaple, or the Ffestiniog. The classic 2-6-OTs (and one solitary 2-6-2T) battled many miles of 1-in-30-odd gradients, with several as steep as 1-in-29 as they

threaded their way from the main line at Tralee, through the beautiful Dingle peninsular.

Tralee & Dingle Railway Kerr Stuart 2-6-OT No. 8T crosses Lispole Viaduct, at the Dingle end of the railway in June 1953. J.M. JARVIS/COLOUR-RAIL





...AND FINALLY SNOWDON

We've deliberately ignored rope and cable-worked inclines, but we couldn't ignore the Snowdon Mountain Railway, the only rack railway in the UK. Gears under the locomotives mesh with a toothed rack between the rails, enabling the Swiss-built O-4-2RTs and Hunslet diesels to push their single-coach trains up the 1-in-5 gradients from Llanberis to some 3,500ft above sea level.

One of the Snowdon Mountain Railway's Swiss Locomotive & Machines Works 0-4-2RTs near Snowdon's summit with one of the two 'Snowdon Lily' saloons in 2015. PHOTOLIBRARY WALES/ALAMY



CREATE A SHAP SOLDIER



To mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Tebay shed, **GEORGE DENT** recreates one of the last steam locomotives employed on Shap banking duties.

uch of my modelling output is inspired by images, be they archive photographs or sights captured by my own eyes when out and about.

For this project, I unearthed a superb photograph of BR '4MT' No. 75039, portraying the locomotive in its final weeks of service, acting as one of Tebay's fleet of bankers for the taxing climb up to Shap summit.

One of the most notable prototype features that demanded replication was the crudely hand-painted smokebox number and 12E shedcode; the cast 'plates having already been removed.

The crusty and weathered appearance also needed to be captured in model form. As well as the layers of grey-brown grime, white staining is visible, emanating largely from the regulator valve packing. Emulsified grease on the valve gear and connecting rods, and patches of corrosion on the footplate and valancing, were also clearly visible.

Using the fine Hornby BR '4MT' as a basis, a number of minor detail tweaks and upgrades were required, especially to the smokebox. As well as



A typical Tebay banker in the last years of steam: Standard '4MT' No. 75024 awalts its next banking duty on August 5 1967. The locomotive has a handmade smokebox numberplate and faint traces of lined black can be seen, as well as its former Western Region 'blue spot' power code. RAIL PHOTOPRINTS

changing the locomotive's number and adding later-style BR crests, it needed a small but vitally important detail - the overhead line warning stickers. Finally, I also indulged in a spot of scratch-building, with a speedometer drive being fabricated from off-cuts of plastic rod, strip brass and a steel guitar string.

Hopefully, my rendition of No. 75039 has captured the look of the real thing, as it counted down the days until withdrawal and its appointment with the scrap man. What a sad end to a powerful and versatile locomotive, that had been in service for less than 15 years.



MODEL Hornby R2714 BR '4MT' 4-6-0 **Price (rrp):** £169.99

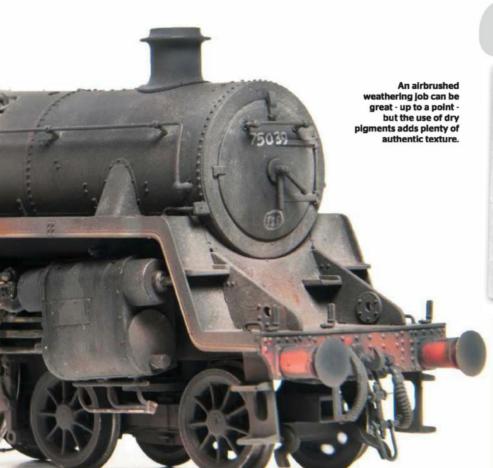
AVAILABILITY Hornby stockists

ESTIMATED TIME 12 hours

TOOLS NEEDED

- Knife
- Straightedge
- Files
- Abrasives
- Tweezers
- Round-nose pliersMetal cutting snips
- Nietal Cutting
 Drill and bits
- Cotton buds
- Painthrushes
- Airbrush and equipment (optional)

To avoid messy joints, always decant a small blob of cyano glue onto a scrap of plastic or card, applying the adhesive to the parts with a cocktall stick.



HOW TO DO IT: RE-NUMBER WITH PRESSFIX DECALS



The Hornby '4MT' is a lovely model, but my donor engine required a few detail modifications. First, though, we need to change its identity and add the later-style BR crests.



Original formula T-Cut colour restorer, applied sparingly with cotton buds, slowly removes factory-printed numbers and logos. Rub gently and buff dry to leave a shiny, smooth surface.



Leave the model overnight for any solvent residue to evaporate, before applying decals. HMRS Pressfix transfers need to be cut out from the backing film (don't cut all the way through the paper). Lift the transfer gently.

SHOPPING LIST

- BR steam-era Pressfix transfers, sheet 14. HMRS.
 Web: www.hmrs.org.uk
- Handrail knobs (medium length) and 0.33mm brass wire. Alan Gibson. Tel: 0161 678 1607.
 Web: www.alangibsonworkshop.co.uk
- RailMatch 402 Frame Dirt, 403 Roof Dirt, 405 Dark Rust, 412 Weathered Black enamel paints. Howes Models. Tel: 01865 848000

Web: www.howesmodels.co.uk

• Lifecolor paints and dry pigments, airbrushes and equipment. The Airbrush Company.

Tel: 01903 767800. Web: www.airbrushes.com

MIG weathering powders. Scale Model Shop.
 Tel: 01422 405040. Web: www.scalemodelshop.co.uk

TEBAY INSPIRATIONS

Tebay is on the climb to Shap summit, but at 1-in-146, it's on a much easier grade than the four miles of 1-in-75 that follows. It was quite a large railway junction, despite its remote location, as it was where the line via Stainmore joined the West Coast Main Line.

The LNWR opened a shed for banking locomotives on the south side of the station, which was rebuilt in the early BR era. It was home to bankers until December 1967 - hence the wintry photographs used here, in what's supposed to be the spring issue.



LMS designed 2-6-4Ts were commonly found at Tebay, with the post-war Charles Fairburn design replacing those penned by Henry Fowler. Fairburn No. 42095, built at Brighton in 1951, assists a freight train past Shap Wells in 1964. RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



A fine view of the LMS straight shed at Tebay in August 1956, with Fowler '4F' 0-6-0s and 2-6-4Ts resting between duties. DAVE COBBE COLLECTION/RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



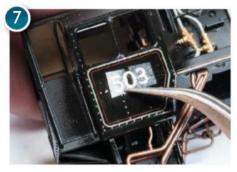
Position the decal carefully. The thin paper film is slightly translucent. When you're happy, with the position press the decal onto the surface with the edge of a cotton bud, especially over surfaces with raised relief.



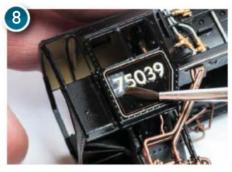
Water, or preferably Micro Set solution, is then brushed onto the paper film. Leave for a few minutes until the gum has softened. Micro Set, or other decal setting solutions, are more effective than water.



Lightly brush the paper film away and apply more Micro Set to remove any traces of adhesive. Don't rub the decal or attempt to dry it out with cotton buds - allow it to dry naturally.



The same process is followed for the new cabside numbers. When applying individual digits, mark out the centre point of the panel and add the middle digit first, followed by the adjacent numerals.



A strip of low-tack masking tape can be used as a positioning guide, if desired, ensuring the numbers are correctly aligned. Once all transfers are in place, leave overnight before sealing with a coat of clear varnish.



BRITAIN'S BEST BANKERS



MIDLAND RAILWAY 0-10-0 No. 2290

Number built: 1

Builder: Midland Railway, Derby.

Driving wheel diameter: 4ft 7½in.

Cylinders: 16¾in by 28in (4).

Tractive effort: 43,313lb.

Duties: This is arguably the most famous banker of all time. Dubbed 'Big Bertha', it was designed by the Midland Railway - a railway known for its 'small engine policy' - specifically for banking the fearsome Lickey Incline. It entered service in 1919 and was withdrawn in 1956, although its famous headlamp was passed to its successor, '9F' No. 92079.

Model it: Quite difficult as DJH has stopped producing its 'OO' kit; nothing in 'N' or 'O'.

'Big Bertha' was re-numbered 58100 by BR and was photographed in good condition and hard at work in 1955. C. BANKS COLLECTION/COLOUR-RAIL



BR CLASS 37 Co-Co

Number built: 309.

Builder: English Electric (Vulcan Foundry/RSH).

Driving wheel diameter: 3ft 9in.

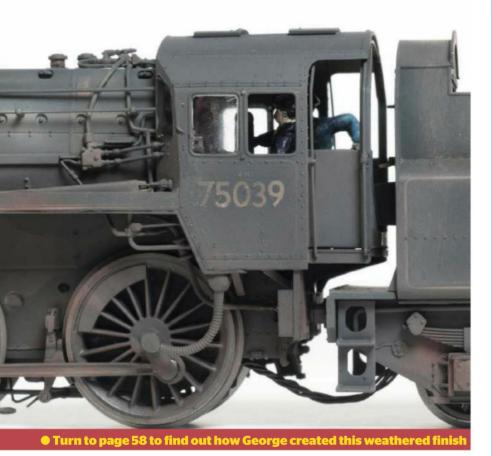
Engine: English Electric 12CSVT.

Horsepower: 1,750.

Duties: Was there a duty that the ever-popular Class 37 couldn't perform? The English Electric Co-Cos were called on for banking power in South Wales, on stone trains around Peak Forest and, of course, on the Lickey Incline. Class 37s were prime Lickey banker candidates until the late 1980s.

Model it: Graham Farish ('N'), Heljan ('O') and Bachmann, Hornby and ViTrains ('OO').

37254 climbs the Lickey incline on August 2 1983 with a heavy train of oil tanks, assisted at the rear by 37180 and 37298. BRIAN ROBBINS/ RAIL PHOTOPRINTS





BR CLASS 13 0-6-0+0-6-0DE

Number built: 3
Builder: BR Darlington.

Driving wheel diameter: 4ft 6in.

Engine: English Electric 6KT (2).

Horsepower: 700hp.

Duties: The three Class 13s were created in 1965 from 350hp shunters D4187/88/90 and D4189/3697/3698, the latter becoming the cabless 'slave' units. 13001-003 were built for the new 'hump' yard at Tinsley, but were withdrawn in the 1980s, owing to the decline in wagon load freight.

Model it: Olivia's Trains offers a ready-to-run Class 13 in 'OO' using two Bachmann models.

Class 13 13001 shoves yet another train over Tinsley's hump on April 20 1979. COLOUR-RAIL

TEBAY INSPIRATIONS



An atmospheric shot of Tebay shed on December 12 1967, as 'Britannia' No. 70024, minus its *Vulcan* nameplates, arrives with a northbound freight working. '4MT' No. 75030 moves off shed to lend a hand. LES NIXON



With No. 75030 pushing from behind, No. 70024 makes a spectacular sight as it powers its way towards Shap summit on December 20 1967. This was the final week of steam on this stretch of the West Coast Main Line. LES NIXON



Another wintry scene, but from the year before steam ended on Shap. The writing was very clearly on the wall in this shot, as an unidentified Fairburn 2-6-4T helps this English Electric Type 4 on December 24 1966. LES NIXON

HOW TO DO IT: DETAIL A HORNBY '4MT'



My chosen prototype had lost its smokebox numberplate and shedplate, so the unwanted plastic was removed with a scalpel and files, before the surface was smoothed with successive grades of abrasive sticks.



The upper door hinge was reinstated with 10 by 20thou' plastic strip and the handrail replaced with brass knobs and 0.33mm stiff brass wire. Fix the wire with cyano glue, trimming the excess when dry.

Limescale streaks and a dusty, rusty



I also opted to replace the plastic smokebox door handle with a set of turned brass components. Again, secure the parts with a tiny drop of cyano glue, trimming away the excess when fully cured.



A speedometer drive was also required for my re-creation of No. 75039, so I made my own from an old steel-wound guitar string (.046 gauge), a length of 2.5mm diameter plastic rod and a scrap of brass strip.



BRITAIN'S BEST BANKERS



COLLETT '5101' 2-6-2T

Number built: 180. Builder: GWR Swindon.

Driving wheel diameter: 5ft 8in.

Cylinders: 18in by 30in (2).

Horsepower: 24,300lb.

Duties: You wouldn't consider Charles Collett's 'Large Prairie' a natural banker, but those 5ft 8in diameter driving wheels could put down a lot of power. They were a popular choice at Severn Tunnel Junction, in the West Midlands and operating out of Newton Abbot to give trains a helping hand.

Model it: An old Farish model in 'N' and the equally ancient ex-Airfix model from Hornby ('OO'), plus a new 'O' gauge model from Heljan.

GWR '5101' No. 4173 helps a goods train as it approaches Old Hill tunnel on the steep climb from Cradley Heath to Rowley Regis on August 30 1962. MICHAEL MENSING



LMS '3F' 0-6-0T

Number built: 422.

Builder: LMS Horwich plus Bagnall, Beardmore, Hunslet,

North British and Vulcan Foundry.

Driving wheel diameter: 4ft 7in.

Cylinders: 17in by 24in (2).

Tractive effort: 16,530lb.

Duties: Henry Fowler's 'Jinty' is not the biggest locomotive you'll ever see, but it provided useful banking power on not only the Lickey (often in pairs or even coupled in threes and mixed and matched with WR '94XX' 0-6-0PTs) but also as the Radstock banker on the Somerset & Dorset. **Model it:** Excellent models from Farish ('N'), Bachmann Branchline ('OO') and a new 'O' gauge version to come from Dapol.

Ex-works 'Jinty' No. 47502 drops down the Lickey Incline, about 250 yards behind a southbound freight, in July 1956. Permissive working like this saved southbound paths. COLOUR-RAIL



A hole large enough for the guitar string to pass through is drilled through the plastic rod, near one end. The rod is then cut to form a 1.5mm long section and the faces tidied with abrasives.



The string is shaped to the desired profile with a set of round-nose pliers, ensuring plenty of material is left at either end for trimming after assembly.



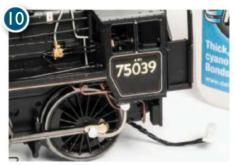
Fix the small boss formed from the rod onto one end of the wire with a drop of cyano glue. Drill another hole through the rest of the rod and fix in position, using the model as a guide to the overall size.



While the drive assembly cures, form a short crank (approximately 8mm long) from 1mm thick brass strip, cutting roughly with a set of snips and forming the final profile in a mini vice with a needle file.

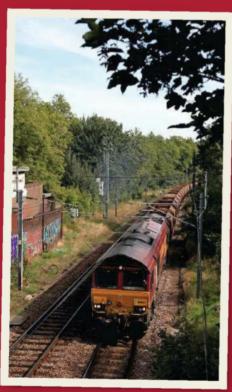


Secure the 'big end' of the crank to the face of the crank pin, ensuring that the 'small end' sits exactly over the wheel's centre. Allow the cyano glue to cure fully.



Trim away the excess wire at the crank end. Leave about 5mm of wire protruding at the cab end of the drive unit to act as a mounting lug, drilling a hole in the underside of the cab and secure with glue.

EWS/DB CLASS 66 Co-Co



built: 250. **Builder:** General Motors EMD. **Driving wheel** diameter: 3ft 6in. Engine: EMD710. Horsepower: 3,300hp. **Duties:** You'd think that an archaic practice such as banking would have been consigned to the railway history books, but no - DB specifically allocated 66055-059 to banking the Lickey and they're easily identified by their extra headlamps. Model it: Dapol and Farish in 'N', Bachmann and Hornby in 'OO'. 'O gaugers' will have to build the PR Model **Railway Products** (www.prmrp.com) kit.

Number





R '9F' 2-10-0 Number built: 251. Builder: BR Crewe/Swindon. Driving wheel diameter: 5ft Oin. Cylinders: 20in by 28in (2).

Tractive effort: 39,670lb. **Duties:** The massive proportions of Robert Riddles' 2-10-0 made it an ideal banking locomotive. No. 92079 is probably the most famous as it replaced 'Big Bertha' on the Lickey, but the most awesome spectacle would have been Tyne Dock-Consett ore trains

top-and-tailed with '9Fs'. **Model it:** Dapol ('N'), Bachmann and Hornby ('OO'), with numerous offerings in 'O' to come from the likes of Finescalebrass and Masterpiece Models.

'9F' No. 92062 banks an unidentified classmate past Annfield Plain in 1963 with a Tyne Dock-Consett ore train. All sorts of motive power could be used to bank these trains, from old North Eastern Railway designs to Class 40s. PETER J. ROBINSON

HOW TO DO IT: WEATHER A LATE 1960s STEAM LOCOMOTIVE



After ensuring that the model is clean of loose debris, oil and greasy deposits, weathering begins with a fine misting of RailMatch enamel Frame Dirt using an airbrush, concentrating on the lower areas.



A misting of Roof Dirt follows, working on the upper reaches of the boiler, tender, smokebox and footplate. A mix of Dark Rust and Roof Dirt follows, adding the effect of corrosion to the footplate and tender top.



Prototype images revealed limescale streaks emanating from the various parts of the boiler, especially the regulator valve packing. A mix of light grey and Frame Dirt was built up in thin layers.



Before the weathering was complete, a white ink pen was used to replicate the crudely painted number and shedcode on the smokebox front. Further misted weathering coats toned down the stark white ink.



RailMatch Weathered Black was the darkest shade used, and I reserve it for adding smoke staining along the boiler and tender tops, as well as for darker streaks, or to accentuate shadows.



A mix of Humbrol enamels - No. 113 Matt Rust, No. 27004 Metalcote Gunmetal and No. 9 Gloss Tan - was stippled onto the connecting rods and valve gear, generating a suitably rusty yet greasy sheen.

BRITAIN'S BEST BANKERS



SOUTHERN RAILWAY 'Z' 0-8-0T

Number built: 8. Builder: SR Brighton.

Wheel diameter: 4ft 8in. **Cylinders:** 16in by 18in (3). **Tractive effort:** 29,376lb.

Duties: Lots of coupled wheels was a good way to maximise adhesion, which is why Richard Maunsell designed the 'Z' O-8-OT for use in Feltham yard, rather than persist in ex-LSWR designs. The 'Zs' were replaced there by new diesel shunters and were transferred to Exeter for banking between stations... only were replaced here by WR pannier tanks when both stations became part of the Western Region. **Model it:** 'OO' kits from Falcon Brassworks (www.falconbrassworks. com) and Golden Arrow Productions (www.goldenarrow.me.uk); in 'N' from GEM (http://lytchettmanor.co.uk).

Maunsell 'Zs' Nos. 30952 and 30954 prepare to bank a heavily laden train for Plymouth out of Exeter St Davids up to Exeter Central in August 1959. GEOFF RIXON



CALEDONIAN RAILWAY '944' 4-6-2T

Number built: 12.

Builder: North British Locomotive Company.

Driving wheel diameter: 5ft 9in. **Cylinders:** 19½in by 26 (2).

Tractive effort: 21,922lb.

Duties: Some bankers were designed specifically for the task; others became bankers out of necessity. The LMS transferred the remaining Pickersgill 4-6-2Ts to Beattock for banking duties on the arduous climb, as Stanier and Fairburn 2-6-4Ts made them redundant in the Glasgow suburbs. Their reign at Beattock didn't last long - they'd all gone by 1953. **Model it:** In kit form from DJH in 'OO' (www.djhmodelloco.co.uk) and Ace Products in 'O' (www.a4ace.supanet.com).

A fine portrait of ex-CR '944' 4-6-2T No. 15356. Displaced from the Glasgow area by more modern designs, the class continued as Beattock bankers until the last was withdrawn in 1953. STEAM RAILWAY COLLECTION



Particular attention was paid to working in pigments around the chassis frames, smokebox and footplate, for a suitably dusty sheen, and providing a welcome counterpoint to the smooth airbrushed 'dirt'.



After leaving everything to dry overnight, the model was finished off with dry pigments. Lifecolor PG101 Golan Earth and PG107 Burned Rust were mixed with MIG P039 City Dust and P236 Grimy Black.





Number built: 1.
Builder: Beyer Peacock.

Driving wheel diameter: 4ft 8in.

Cylinders: 18½in by 26in (6).
Tractive effort: 72,940lb.

Duties: It may have been Britain's only six-cylinder steam locomotive, and it may have had a tractive effort of over 70,000lb, but the Nigel Gresley-designed Garratt was not a success. Electrification

was the only way to properly work the line to Wath (see p47), and that made No. 69999 homeless. It couldn't surplant 'Big Bertha' on the Lickey and was withdrawn in 1955.

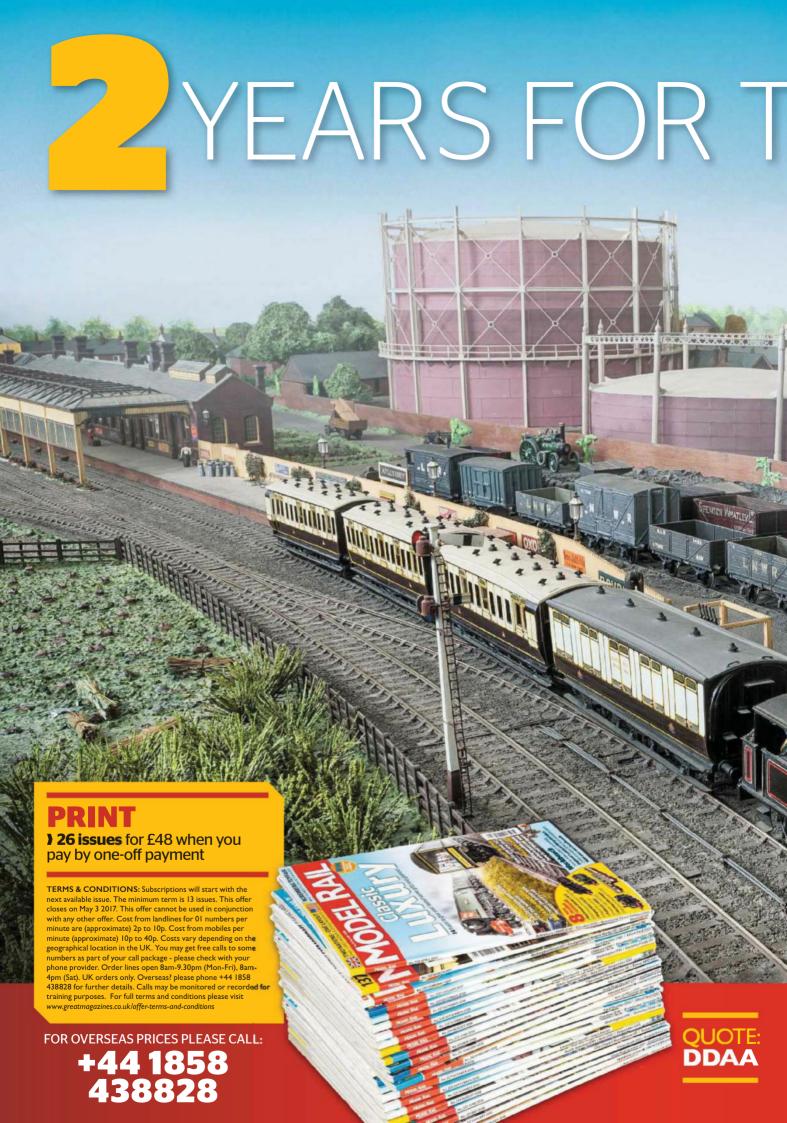
Model it: In kit form only: DJH in 'OO' (www.djhmodelloco.co.uk) and Gladiator in 'O' (www.gladiatormodels.com).

Nigel Gresley's giant 'U1' 2-8-0+0-8-2T No. 69999 arrives at the foot of Worsborough bank in March 1953. LES NIXON

SEE MORE

Keep up to date with George's projects by visiting www.model-rail.co.uk and clicking on 'George's Blog' on the navigation bar

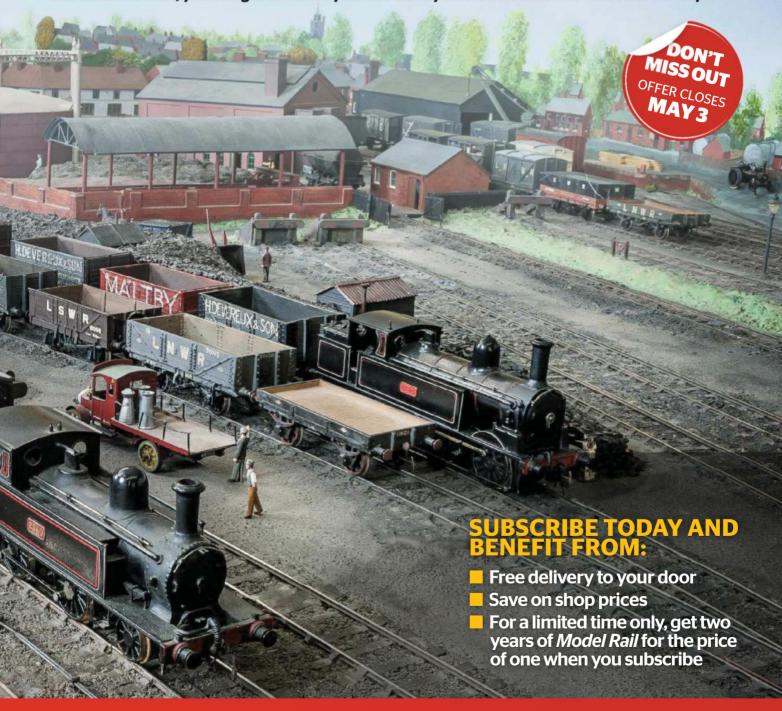
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FIGUREDOUT

You've created the model railway stage, but now you need to make your cast of miniature figures act like the real thing. PAUL A. LUNN shows you how.



opulating a layout seems to be a modelling blind spot. Lavouts either have too few people or too many, and in unrealistic poses or situations.

It's a bit easier in larger scales, where the quality of the figures is higher, but there's a real dearth of quality figures in 'OO'. There are exceptions, of course, such as Bachmann's Scenecraft range. Many modellers opt for either smaller 'HO' scale figures from European manufacturers, or worse: those bulk packs of underscale people, some in ridiculously unhelpful poses, manufactured in some Far Eastern country. I'm certainly not anti-'HO', but mixing of

scales should only be considered for aesthetic reasons, such as achieving a forced perspective effect. But more of that later on.

Many people populate their layouts by simply plonking figures on it, without sparing a thought for plausibility. When you consider placing a figure, always bear in mind the following:

- What activity is a particular figure, or group of figures, undertaking?
- Where did that person come from?
- What is each person doing, and what are they about to do?
- If it's a group of people, how are they interacting with each other?

The main image - Terence Cuneo's painting Track Laying by Night - amply

illustrates this. Look at the image and you'll see the group of men, bottom left, with tools at the ready. Or they could be on a break and awaiting the next task.

The figures on the crane are almost static. The supervisors are quite static too, completely opposite to the platelayers manipulating the rails. In this case, pay attention to the position of their limbs, the angles of their heads, and so on.

But no matter how good it is, this is still a painting. Let's study some real railway workers and see what can be transferred to model form:



PEOPLE INSPIRATION



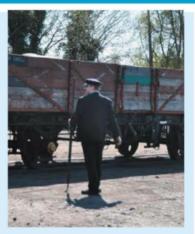
When it comes to populating a layout, there's no better place to start than by observing real people. You're not just looking at their poses, or what they're wearing, but also their behaviour.

What do you notice most about these two men, beautifully framed by the architectural features of Birkdale station (on the MerseyRail system)? I focused on their bowed heads, which would be unusual in model form, but also note their arm and hand positions. Also note the detail: leather belt bags, hats and the hand-held paperwork (although bear in mind that a sheet of A4 paper in 'OO' gauge measure 4mm by 3mm!)

It's not just about the figures, however; the setting and its composition can make a big difference.



A figure in a dynamic pose can create interest, although some poses, if frozen in plastic, would be unrealistic. Figure 1, with the shunter's foot off the ground, illustrates that point. However,



the issue is easily resolved - see the second photograph. The shunter is 'static' but he still seems animated as the he looks left, towards an oncoming train.



What strikes me most about this group of trainspotters at Retford is their varied viewing positions, heights... and their attire. Could you imagine a group of young boys looking like this today? Some are in shorts, others are wearing trousers, while one sports that one-time fashion accessory, the bicycle clip!

Also notice how some spotters are in small groups, while others stand alone. There's much here to re-create in model form, with shoulder bags and note books, and it should be a particularly easy task.





TRACK LAYING BY NIGHT





A great way to have a figure on your layout normally associated with movement, such as a runner or cyclist, is to concoct a legitimate way of halting their movement. 'A4'

No. 60005 *Sir Charles Newton* holds up this railwayman with a bicycle (the signalman?) at Babworth,
Nottinghamshire, which illustrates my

Nottinghamshire, which illustrates my point.



Here's an interesting cameo: uncoupling stock. Look at the young man between the platform edge and locomotive buffer - his stance appears to be one of trepidation. But he's merely preparing himself to duck under the buffer!

MOOR RA



Postcards can be a great source of inspiration, especially for earlier periods. Note the formal and somewhat sombre attire, and the use of umbrellas for protection against the hot sunshine. Edwardian figures are available from www.petegossrailwaymodelling.co.uk



This small group of static trackside workers, away from the 'four foot' (between the rails) and 'six foot' (between the running lines) would be an ideal arrangement for a modern layout, as they won't foul the path of passing trains. Note the bowed heads and bent backs, and the position of the trio in relation to the power tool cases and the portable generator.



Uniforms changed in style over the years, so it's worth paying attention to dates and eras. These permanent way workers, controlling the flow of ballast at Mill Meece in Staffordshire, are sporting one of the most striking changes in uniforms: the high visibility jacket. The 'high vis' was trialled in 1964 and entered general usage a year later, thus we have a clear watershed for relevant periods. Note that the worker on the right has only one strap on the bib and brace; presumably the other one was broken.



Static poses such as this are easiest to replicate, being very similar to those found in ready-to-plant sets. You might expect to see such a pose on a more advanced layout, as in the brake van image here, but for entry level modellers, simply cutting off the toe end of both feet allows us to add a shunter onto this modified Hornby 'J70' 0-6-0T.



So much for individuals and small groups let's have a look at something much larger. I'm a firm believer in creating focal points on a layout and here's a spectacular

example. You'd need quite a few spectators, and two more on either side of the trailer. varied in appearance and generally all watching the action.

Notice how the trailer's contents,

a number of cardboard boxes, have been removed to lighten the load and possibly protect against further damage. At the other end, there are two groups of firemen on either side of the tractor unit

The operation is a simple one, if somewhat arduous. The firemen on the left are trying to right the tractor unit, while the firemen on the opposite side are trying to stop it from crashing down onto the road and causing further damage. Both teams are using ropes and chains. I'd model this scene just before the strain is taken, or just after they've got everything back on its wheels.

Finally, think about the positioning of the police vehicles, the officers controlling traffic and the firemen and their equipment. They're not all visible in the photograph, but they'd certainly be present.



RESERVED COMPARTMENT

Another realistic cameo scene as the signal lamps are changed: notice the left leg is slightly bent and the hand carrying the lamp is extended slightly outwards as he climbs the signal ladder. Moments earlier, two lamps were being carried down the platform. It's another animated pose that would look a bit odd as a static interpretation.

It's easy to create a variation of either of these poses; substitute the figure up the ladder for someone undertaking repair work, justifying a longer stay in that position. For the platform image, let the figure be intercepted by a passenger asking for information - simple!





There's a good range of poses in this view of Stansted goods yard in the 1950s. It's a textbook example of teamwork, with staff and supervisors interacting, and all very easy to model. It's also worth noting how the ropes are fastened to the wagon's bufferbeam.

THE STORY'S IN THE PAPERWORK

There's more to people than just poses. Researching railway documents will provide a lot of additional inspiration:

> This label reveals an entire scenario: at least two escorts possibly police officers, with a solitary prisoner, possibly

handcuffed. Whatever the circumstances, there's a human story here, and it would be easy to replicate with a small group of figures waiting at a station.

BR's 'Send your Luggage by Rail' pamphlet conjures up all manner of possibilities, from railway staff collecting cases from households, delivering them to hotels and guest houses, and loading/unloading them from vans. There are implications for the holidaying family too - no cases. On a subtler level.

SEND YOUR

IN ADVANCE

LUGGAGE

notice what everyone is doing: mum is keeping an eye on her daughter while dad buys the tickets. He'd also be the one carrying and fetching luggage, and so on.



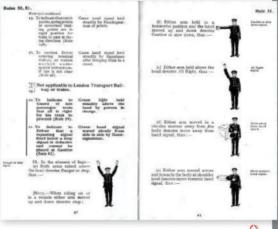
There's a whole range

SECTION 2_continued CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION REGULATIONS-CO Cattle was

I love this extract from The Livestock Handbook, a set of instructions relating to the transport of livestock by rail and road, published by the Railway Clearing House in 1947. It's full of best practice and procedures, details of the tasks involved and the tools/equipment used. Consider the implications for cattle wagons arising from the following snippets: "droppings... excretions... to be scraped and swept... and removed from the truck". The truck should be "scrubbed and scoured with water". and "washed with disinfectant".

The section on horsehoxes is even more interesting. But what has all this got to do with railway modelling? It's this prototypical information that dictates what your figures will look like and what they'll be carrying you'd need scraping tools, brooms, wheelbarrows, hose pipes and stirrup pumps, not to mention canisters or bottles of disinfectant. From this you can work out the figure poses: scraping, sweeping, spraying, shovelling and stirring (mixing water and disinfectant). And with all this detail, there's an opportunity to create an unusual yet extremely accurate scene of a handful of wagons, parked against a loading dock, with a group of staff in overalls undertaking such tasks.

of signalling movements illustrated in these pages from the London Transport Executive's 1933 Rule Book (reprinted in 1949). Obviously, the arm movements (d and e) wouldn't be suitable, but a, b and c would work as static poses, with the others modelled in any static position taken from the overall movement.



OFRDENCE

REFINING 'READY-TO-PLANT' FIGURES

Most modellers are content to hack a building or even a locomotive apart, but comparatively few are willing to do the same with miniature figures. Despite their small size, it's not difficult to make a few changes to improve them, such as altering head or

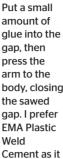
arm positions. For this short demonstration, I used Dapol's pack of Railway Workmen (COO2). You get 38 in a pack (good value at £6) and, considering the age of the tooling, I think that they're well made. They're also perfect for adapting!

HOW TO DO IT: MODIFY DAPOL FIGURES

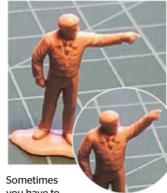


A razor saw is best for cutting. Wherever possible, never cut completely through a limb or head as the joining piece will help to keep the appendage in the correct anatomical position - and it eliminates the risk of losing small parts.





looks like the moulded plastic when it cures. But use it sparingly - too much and you'll melt the plastic.



you have to completely remove a limb in order to achieve the required angle. To make this chap point at something higher, I removed his arm with a razor saw, adjusted the base with files and glued the arm in place at the new angle.



Bending, kneeling, crouching or pron positions seem to have been overlooked by 'OO' gauge figure manufacturers. I modified this Dapol fireman by removing the coal shovel and reshaping the leg behind using a combination of knife scraping and filing. Both knees have been cut, from the rear, in the same way as the lowered arm. Using a fine needle file, I've increased the cut angle so both legs will go further back, to give a crouched position. The modified figure is ideal for depicting someone drilling or feeding a pipe through a wall.



Perhaps the most complex modification is to replicate a bowed head. Cut almost all the way through the neck and make a wedge -I used a piece of sprue - to push the head forward. Glue into position and leave to dry. Once dry, cut away the sprue and re-shape the neck. Finally, I scraped away the waistcoat chain, which the figure appears to be holding, and substituted it with a small piece of paper.



I converted this Dapol track worker to a signalman many years ago. I used the techniques described here to alter the position of his leading leg. If I were to make this model now, I'd replace the moulded crowbar with a scale signal lever.



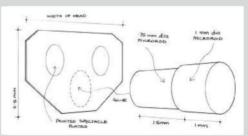
I was intrigued by this wartime with a file and then glued the image of railway workers wearing gas masks. The diagram illustrates how I used a small piece of very thin plastic sheet to form the mask. I removed some of the facial details (including the nose)

mask in place, bending it around the face as the glue softened the plastic. The canister section was made from two pieces of micro-rod.

The gas mask bag was made from a fairly flat piece of then stick it in place.

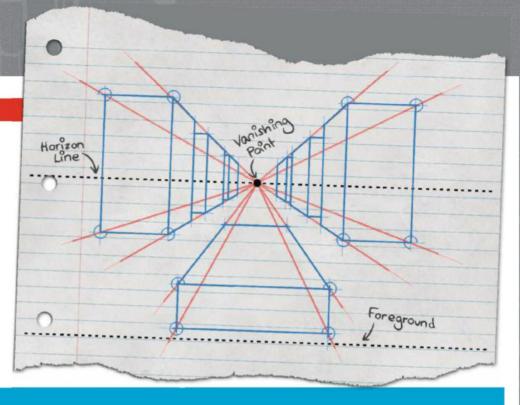
sprue from the Dapol Water Tower kit, and I made the straps for the bag and gas mask out of micro-strip. A word of advice for the straps: put a thin coat of glue on the underside to help it bend,





SMALL... OR FAR AWAY?

I mentioned forced perspective earlier and it's easy to do with '00' and 'HO' figures. '00' gauge figures go to the front and, with a suitable gap between them, 'HO' figures go towards the rear. Remember, the visual illusion of perspective is that a road, for example, appears to rise up as it goes into the distance and up to the horizon line. Therefore a road, running from the back to the front of the baseboard, should physically rise up a little. Make the angle too steep and it will look like a hill. Too little and the illusion will be lost.



STANDING UP

One of the issues with miniature figures is how to fix them to the layout in a way that doesn't leave any unsightly blobs of glue, or clunky bases. Having used magnets to move buses around a layout (MR221), could I also use magnets to solve this people problem? The main benefit of this method

is that you'll be able to quickly change the location of a figure, or substitute one with another from a completely different period. This is especially useful if your layout depicts two different eras. Most importantly, my magnet method eliminates unsightly bases.

HOW TO DO IT: MAKE FIGURES STICK

Treatment of a figure is relatively simple; remove the plastic base, cutting around the shoes so you have over-thick soles. Then trim and sand down to the correct shoe height.





Once done, use a razor saw to cut a groove in the underside of each shoe, big enough to take a small piece of a metal staple. Make sure the groove is the same depth as the thickness of your staple. Glue the staple pieces in place.



weakened the strength of this sheet, but I could tilt it to quite a steep angle before figures fell off.



Alternatively you could use a series of thin block magnets from Spider Magnetics (www. web-magnets.co.uk). I tried one of its small circular neodymium magnets underneath Metcalfe card sheet - not only will the figure stay put - even at 90° - but you can shake it about too!

Workbench







Cocktail stick
 Masking tape

GAUGE

HOW TO ... RENUMBER

Looking for a change of identity? **RICHARD FOSTER** shows you the right way (and the wrong way) to apply new numbers to your models using decals.

'd hoped to talk about the locomotives for Gedney at a later stage, as researching my required fleet was a really fun part of the layout planning process. But switching to DCC threw a bit of a spanner in the works.

The reason for going digital, as I explained last issue, was so I could operate my layout as close to the real thing as possible. This not only means running trains into the right sidings or loops, but including the locomotive and coach diagram too.

I was inspired by Chris Evans' 'Run it like a real railway' series from 2009 (was it really that long ago?) in which he studied timetabling and diagramming. I wanted 'Gedney' to look like the real thing, and that means making the train formations and combinations authentic, as well as the landscape. However, as with all aspects of the hobby, it would involve a degree of compromise.

Locomotive variety is also an important factor in choosing

a subject to model. That's why, for example, the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway is such a popular railway to model. Nowhere else would you find such a blend of ex-LMS, Southern and Western motive power with a healthy smattering of BR Standards.

'Joint' lines, by their very nature, often used a greater variety of motive power, and the Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway was no exception. To achieve the diversity I wanted would involve tweaking history - but, hopefully, not excessively.

MIXED BAG

It's probably fair to say that the M&GN locomotive fleet was not as exciting as that of the S&DJR, at least in latter years. There were no Bulleid 'Pacifics', '7Fs' or '9Fs' thundering across Lincolnshire and Norfolk. No, just a mixed bag of 4-4-0s and 0-6-0s - some Victorian, some slightly newer - with the odd 4-6-0

WHAT'S A WORKING TIMETABLE?

The Working Timetable shows all train movements from passenger and freight trains through to light engine moves, empty coaching stock moves and parcels trains.

and 2-6-0 thrown in for good measure. The problem was that trains that traversed the whole M&GN had to cross bridges with severe weight restrictions.

That wouldn't be a problem if traffic on the M&GN was light. But it wasn't. Holiday specials to Norfolk were as heavy as those to the South Coast, and the region's agriculture provided a key source of freight revenue.

H.G. Ivatt's '4MT' 2-6-0s were ideal for the post-war M&GN. They were powerful enough to pull the trains but light enough to cope with the weight restrictions. Over 50 new '4MTs' were delivered to the M&GN between 1950 and 1952 - key depots being Peterborough New England (35A), South Lynn (31D), Melton Constable



RTR MODELS

(32G) and Yarmouth Beach (32F) - which gave the M&GN arguably the most standardised fleet anywhere on BR.

Great for operating a real railway; less interesting for the modeller.

I've already described what a boon Xpress Publishing's *The District Controller's View No. 12* has been. The working timetable for the line through Gedney revealed an average day would include 13 different diagrams: five covered by Spalding shed, six from South Lynn and two Colwick-South Lynn coal trains in each direction shared by South Lynn and Colwick diagrams.

Of those 13 diagrams, eight were worked by Ivatt '4MTs'. That's not the basis for an interesting layout, is it?

HISTORY TWEAK

I decided to 'tweak' history (see panel 'Choosing the right '4MTs') and inject some variety into the fleet, to emphasise the coming together of LMS and LNER motive power that was typical of the M&GN. But I still ended up with six Ivatt '4MTs' - known as 'Doodlebugs' to M&GN crews.

So why bring this up now? Because, for DCC, I'd need to tell them all apart.

I'd hoped to leave fine detailing and weathering to the end of the build, but each locomotive needed a digital address - and that address is usually based on the running number. As we all know, manufacturers only produce selected numbers, so I had a couple of

'Doodlebugs' with the same number. To differentiate between them, I'd have to re-number them now before fitting and programming decoders.

Just one snag: I've never renumbered anything before...

I've built many Airfix kits over the years, so I'm comfortable applying waterslide decals. The problem was the removal of the printed numbers.

The technique that George swears by - using T-Cut automotive polish - looked straightforward enough, but my biggest concern was that I'd have a polished cabside panel and the rest of the locomotive would be rather dull. Would I have to varnish the whole locomotive?

There was only one thing to do: ignore my worries and get stuck in! MR

WHAT'S A DIAGRAM?

In its simplest form, a typical diagram will show the classification and allocated depot of a locomotive or multiple unit (MU), or the formation of a set of coaches, with its working for a complete day.



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Workbench

HOW TO DO IT: APPLY THE DECALS



Decant a small amount of T-Cut into a suitable container. You'll also need a good supply of cotton buds. Dip one of them in the T-Cut...



...and start to rub it over the printed numbers. You need to use a surprising amount of force on the numbers, but they will start to disappear.



As you rub, the cotton bud gets dirty, so once you've used all the clean areas on the bud, replace it with a fresh one.

HOW TO CORRECT ERRORS

Fox Transfers' cabside number sheets for the Ivatt '4MT' are quite clever. They're offered in a number range with four of the five numerals as one decal. All you have to do is add the final digit, thus minimising alignment. The issue is that you only get one pair of numbers. I ruined a '4308X' decal with my varnish misadventure (see panel) but was able to fudge another number by cutting the '430' from a '43090' decal and using a spare '8' and another '5'.



Once the number has disappeared, buff the area with a fresh cotton bud to remove any traces of T-Cut.



Follow the same process with the smokebox and shedcode plates. You'll find T-Cut dust gets into the crevices, but it's easily removed with a damp cotton bud.



GETTING IT WRONG

A varnish is a varnish is a varnish, right? Not quite.

It's recommended that you apply a gloss varnish to where the decal is to go first as this creates a better surface for the decal to adhere to. For some reason, I've always omitted this process in my model making and, for the first renumbering, I followed my usual practice. The decal attached itself to the cabside without drama, but it stuck fast and didn't allow any time to tweak its position.

Maybe there was something to this gloss varnish theory. I thought I'd try it on the opposite side - except that I couldn't find the varnish I'd ordered. Never mind, I had some matt varnish, which I was going to use to seal the decals in place. Surely, it would do the job?

No, it didn't. The decal stuck to the matt finish and, when I tried to move it, it curled up and then ripped. Decal ruined.

So don't copy what I did and try to cut corners - varnish does matter!



Apply a little gloss varnish to the area that you've just buffed. This will give the new decals a good surface to adhere to.



Cut the decals from the backing sheet with a scalpel. Take your time to prevent accidentally cutting into the decal. Which is what I did ...



Use low-tack masking tape to align the new number. The tape I've used is from Tamiya.



Submerge the decal in tepid water and place to one side to allow the decal to lift from the backing paper. Once it's started to lift...



...apply it to the cabside. Hold the backing paper with a pair of tweezers and slide the decal into position using a blunted cocktail stick.



With the number in place, remove the masking tape. Then apply another coat of varnish - in this case matt - to seal the decals in place.

HOOSING

I had six Bachmann Ivatt '4MTs' that needed new identities: two 32-585s as No. 43106, two 32-586DC No. 43154s, a 32-577 No. 43160 and a 32-579 No. 43096. Having seemingly avoided '4MTs', which of the 50-odd allocated to the M&GN should I have on my layout?

I could reduce this to four in a stroke. No. 43106, the only lyatt '4MT' to survive, was a South Lynn locomotive from April 10 1951 until July 8 1956. That covers one of my South Lynn diagrams.

George detailed and weathered one of the No. 43154s back in 2009. Knowing how much I love the M&GN, he kindly gave it to me. No. 43154 was a Melton Constable locomotive. but I decided that it could cover the 'Leicester', the daily Great Yarmouth-Birmingham service that M&GN locomotives worked as far as - yes, vou guessed it - Leicester. Melton's No. 43154 has been borrowed by the South Lynn shedmaster to cover this prestigious diagram. The main reason

for choosing it was that I didn't fancy messing about doing a George Dent-style weathering project.

Left to cover were three Spalding diagrams and one South Lynn diagram. South Lynn received 19 new 'Doodlebugs' in 1951, including Nos. 43104-111 (a couple spent a few months at New England first).

I liked the idea of consecutively numbered models, so I went for No. 43106's sister, No. 43105.

Spalding shed was a simple, two-road affair. After nationalisation, it was a sub-shed of Peterborough New England, later being transferred to the care of Boston. Despite its small size, it had to provide cover for eight diagrams and its locomotives reached



Nottingham in the west and King's I vnn in the east.

It's difficult to know exactly which locomotives were allocated to Spalding for use on the M&GN as, officially, they were all allocated to New England. Therefore, I've picked two from photographs to include: No. 43085, which Hugh Ballantyne beautifully captured at Gedney, and No. 43060, 🔮

Above: Back where it belongs: Severn Valley Railway's No. 43106 steams along the North Norfolk Railway towards Weybourne, the only preserved section of the M&GN, on August 22 2011. **BEN BOGGIS**



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Workbench

which hauled a portion of the last eastbound 'Leicester' on February 28 1959 and the first freight on the day following closure to passenger services, on March 2, to Sutton Bridge.

It's a worthy locomotive to model!

The issue is that Fox's BR shedcode decals only contain one plate per sheet (see panel). No. 43060 is to have the 35A New England code. Hugh Ballantyne's photograph showed No. 43085 with a 40F Boston code. Boston took over responsibility for Spalding during the 1950s, and No. 43085 was transferred there on December 29 1957.

So what about the last Spalding diagram? I went for No. 43081, purely because it stayed at New England for the whole of its life (going new there in October 1950 and being withdrawn

RECOMMENDED READING

- Branch Lines Around Spalding by Michael Back (Middleton Press).
- *The Book of the Ivatt 4MTs* by Ian Sixsmith (Irwell Press).
- The District Controller's View No. 12 (Xpress Publishing).

from there on January 3 1965).

In this respect, it was unique. New England was re-coded from February 3 1958 to 34E. The accompanying photograph shows No. 43081 at Spalding in 1953 (when New England was still 35A). There's a very strong possibility that such scenes took place later in the decade, with the locomotive wearing its 34E shedcode.



Left: Ivatt '4MT' No. 43154 passes Hillingdon with the 9.30am Sundays-only Peterborough-Yarmouth Beach on August 30 1958. The M&GN hoped that the Royal Family would use Hillingdon station to get to Sandringham; instead, they preferred to use Wolferton on the Great Eastern branch to Hunstanton. HUGH BALLANTYNE/RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



Left: We've published this image before, but it's one of the best photographs of an Ivatt '4MT' at Gedney station. No. 43085 halts at Gedney with the 10.53am Sundays-only Spalding-Hunstanton on August 31 1958. HUGH BALLANTYNE/RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



Left: No. 43060 makes a spirited departure from Leicester with the final Birmingham-Yarmouth on February 28 1959, the day the M&GN closed as a through route. The 'That's yer lot' headboard was handed over to No. 43161 at Spalding, which, suitably graffitied, took the train east. COLOUR-RAIL

Right: No. 43106's classmate No. 43105 rests on South Lynn shed in April 1953. New to South Lynn on March 30 1951, it was transferred to Stratford on March 1 1959, just after the closure of the M&GN as a through route. It remained in East Anglia until 1964, when it was transferred to Carnforth, and it was withdrawn from there in summer 1967. J.T. CLEWLEY/TRANSPORTTREASURY.CO.UK

Below: New England's No. 43081 rests on the small two-road shed at Spalding with an unidentified classmate and an Ivatt 'J6' 0-6-0. No. 43081 was unique in that it stayed at New England for its entire life. WWW.RAIL-ONLINE.CO.UK





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HOW IO... BUILD AN INCLINE HOUSE DIORAMA

PETER MARRIOTT takes a fresh angle on narrow gauge modelling, and shows you how to make the grade with a winding house diorama.



ometimes a model or an accessory piques your interest, and Bachmann's Scenecraft Incline Winding House (44-0049) certainly grabbed my attention.

What on earth was it? My knowledge of narrow gauge railways is very limited, and I only had a basic understanding of the role that the winding house played.

Conventional adhesion railways can only have fairly shallow inclines. If a gradient is too steep then you have to raise and lower trains using a cable. Trains in and out of Euston were rope-hauled, using a pair of stationary engines, until 1844. The Cromford & High Peak Railway made use of cable incline planes until the 1960s. The Bowes Railway, near Gateshead, is the last standard gauge rope-worked railway in the world.

STEEPED IN HISTORY

But winding houses similar to the one depicted by Bachmann Scenecraft proliferated in the quarries of North Wales. If the slate was up a mountain, the only way to get it down was to lower it on a cable. I didn't really know much about slate quarry railways, but once I began to dig a little deeper, I was intrigued by the huge inclines that linked different levels (called galleries). Here, little steam locomotives (sometimes horses, people or even overhead electric locomotives) moved loaded wagons to the head of the incline and took empty ones away to be filled with freshly quarried rock.

In some quarries, the incline was cut into the landscape like a conventional railway, just steeper. However, in the larger quarries such as Dinorwic or Penrhyn, the inclines were built on large slate slab embankments.

Browsing images on the internet, I was soon captivated, especially by the images of disused quarry equipment which seems to litter the mountains of North Wales. The arrival of Peco's new 'OO9' slate wagons meant that a small incline diorama was just begging to be built. Inspired by the images of the derelict quarries, I decided to make the diorama as it might look today, with the incline no longer in use and with weeds pushing their way through the compacted slate waste. MR

SHOPPING LIST

- Peco SL-400 'OO9' Single Flexible Track **Price**: £4.20 each; GR-321 2t Slate Wagon three-pack **Price**: £29.50; PSG-602 Static Grass 6mm Summer **Price**: £3.50. **Availability**: Peco stockists.
- Celotex insulation board (various thicknesses available).

 Availability: www.insulationgiant.co.uk
- Woodland Scenics C1218 Stone Gray Terrain Paint Price: £5.50.
 Availability: Hatton's.
 Tel: 01517 333655.
 Web: www.hattons.co.uk
- WWScenics Small Seafoam Trees
 Price: £9.50. Availability:
 WWScenics. Tel: 01792 815841.
 Web: www.war-world.co.uk
- Gaugemaster Static Grass Glue

 Price: £6.95; Deluxe Materials AD-78

 Fix & Flex Price: £8.50; Deluxe

 Materials BD-60 Create and Shape

 Price: £8.50. Availability:

 Gaugemaster. Tel: 01903 884488.

 Web: www.gaugemaster.com

INCLINE INSPIRATION



The National Slate Museum, at the former Dinorwic Quarry, has a short section of restored incline. Wagons are carried side by side on a lifting table, rather than cables being attached to 'runs' of wagons. DOMINIC JONES/ALAMY



One of the disused inclines in the former Dinorwic quarry at Llanberis, built on slate embankments. The inclines linked the different working levels, called galleries. ATGOF.CO/ALAMY



A view of one of Pen-yr-Orsedd quarry's inclines, photographed on October 20 1968, with the winding house at the top. Of interest here is the mixed gauge track; within the quarry a nominal 2ft gauge was used, while the connection to the outside world was via the 3ft 6in gauge Nantlle Railway. KEITH JAGGERS

Workbench

HOW TO DO IT: BUILD AN INCLINE DIORAMA



The Bachmann Scenecraft Incline Winding House (44-0049). As with other Scenecraft resin buildings, it comes ready-painted and weathered.



To form the foundation for the incline, I glued two pieces of Celotex roof insulation sheet together using Woodland Scenics Foam Tack Glue, then I shaped them with the foam knife.



I cut the foam slate sheet (from Osborn's Models) using a sharp craft knife with a steel ruler. I used the Celotex to accurately work out the shape of the foam.



The laser-cut foam sheet glued easily to the Celotex using Deluxe Materials' Fix 'n' Flex, a new gap-filling adhesive that's ideal for use with this type of material.



While the adhesive was drying on the slate sheets, I held the sheets in place using Woodland Scenics Foam Nails (T Pins), which are useful for holding things in place temporarily.



I spread some Deluxe Materials Create and Shape around the base of the incline house to remove any unsightly gaps. Wetting it slightly improves its 'spreadability'.

OSBORN'S TO THE RESCUE...

The success of any slate quarry layout will depend on your ability to recreate the distinctive slate quarry surroundings. I wanted to make an incline on a slate embankment, but how on earth could I make it? There's nothing commercially available...

I knew that Osborn's Models of Bideford undertakes commissions for laser-cut items. Could it help?

Osborn's offers a great range of very useful laser-cut accessories and also specialises in bespoke work. I gave them a call, briefed them on what I needed, and shortly after that I received a sheet of self-coloured foam that looked just like a slate embankment. Perfect!

The foam was easy to work with, and it was easy to glue to insulation foam with Deluxe Materials' new Fix 'n' Flex, a clear adhesive. The slate foam easily accepted Woodland Scenics Foam Nails, and took scatters and grasses well too.

Of course, ordering a bespoke product will cost money, and how much you pay will depend on the complexity of what you have specified. However, if you have a modelling problem, and if no-one else can help, it's worth giving Osborn's a call.

Contact: Osborn's Models.

Tel: 01237 423453.

Web: www.osbornsmodels.com



Once the sheets were fixed to the hard foam, and the Create and Shape had dried, I painted the entire diorama using Woodland Scenics Slate Grey Earth Colours.



I used a little stone ballast to represent loose slate. Although it's a different shape to slate chips, I'll disguise the stone with grasses.



I cut some lengths of Peco 'OO9' track and fixed them to the slate using Woodland Scenics Scenic Glue. Foam nails hold the track to the base.



To replicate the colours of a disused quarry, I covered the rails and ballast in brown poster paint. There was no need to clean the rail heads, which made a pleasant change!

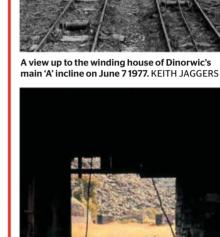
To plant the weeds, I used Gaugemaster Static Grass Glue, a WWS Micro Pro Grass electrostatic tool and Peco 6mm Summer Grass.



Peco's 6mm static grass fibres generally come out in fuzzy 'blobs' that need to be broken up



Because I wanted patches of weeds growing through the slate, I dabbed on Gaugemaster Static Grass Glue using a small paintbrush.



INCLINE INSPIRATION

Looking through the winding house on Dinorwic's 'A4' incline. The cables were wrapped around a giant wooden drum, which controlled the speed of ascent and descent. KEITH JAGGERS



Break the 'blobs' up with your fingers. It's only a five-minute job, but your planting will be more successful if you do.



electrostatic tool was attached to a T Pin so that the electric charge flowed from the device through to the glue to attract the grass fibres.







in 1972. North Wales is littered with such remains as it was easier to leave the equipment in situ, rather than remove it. Dinorwic closed in 1969 and the former quarry workings are full of abandoned items, such as rails, slate working tools and even wagons. In 1972, the remains of the last locomotive left in the quarry, Hunslet 0-4-0ST Alice, were removed. KEITH JAGGERS

BRIXCOMBE

Farnham & District MRC members are aiming for 'P4' perfection across the entire layout as they put the finishing touches to this quintessential GWR branch line. **RICHARD HARRIS** explains why.

Words: MIKE HARRIS





ost layouts feature a centrepiece, an item of model making that really stands out a large station terminus, engine shed, or suspension bridge -'Brixcombe' contains no such thing...

Instead, the Farnham and District Model Railway Club (FDMRC) strives to make every detail of the 16ft by 2ft 6in layout as realistic as possible. Take a look behind the scenes and you'll find a superbly crafted, bespoke control setup that's almost as interesting as the model itself.

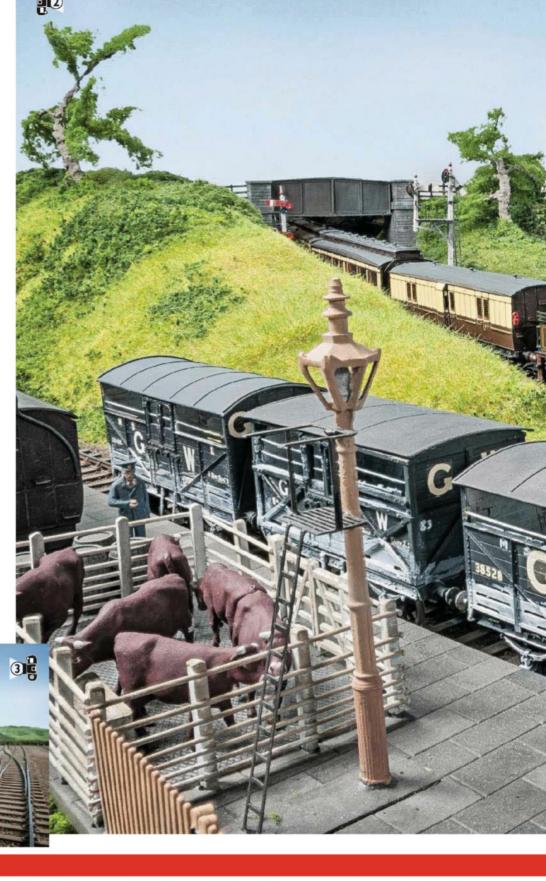
'Brixcombe' might not push boundaries or break new ground, but it's a masterclass in finescale modelling, teamwork, and meticulous planning. For a scenic section that's pure railway, and a stunning fleet of finely crafted locomotives, look no further - this is one GWR branch line that demands your attention.

LESS IS MORE

The layout doesn't contain any buildings outside of the railway and, although you're unlikely to notice this straight away, it's an entirely conscious decision. Club member Richard Harris explains why: "Vast open space surrounds many railways, something we wanted to portray with 'Brixcombe'. We were careful not to cram details into every nook and cranny, instead, trying to evoke a sense of openness."

It's clear that the FDMRC have spent much of their time studying prototypical resources and, although 'Brixcombe' is a freelance layout, it's partially inspired by a real Devonshire location - Brixham.

"We decided that Brixham is just 🕥



THE LOCOMOTIVES



'Dean Goods' 0-6-0 No. 2407 (S4 boiler) - Martin Finney kit, with Mashima 10/24 motor and High Level gearbox.

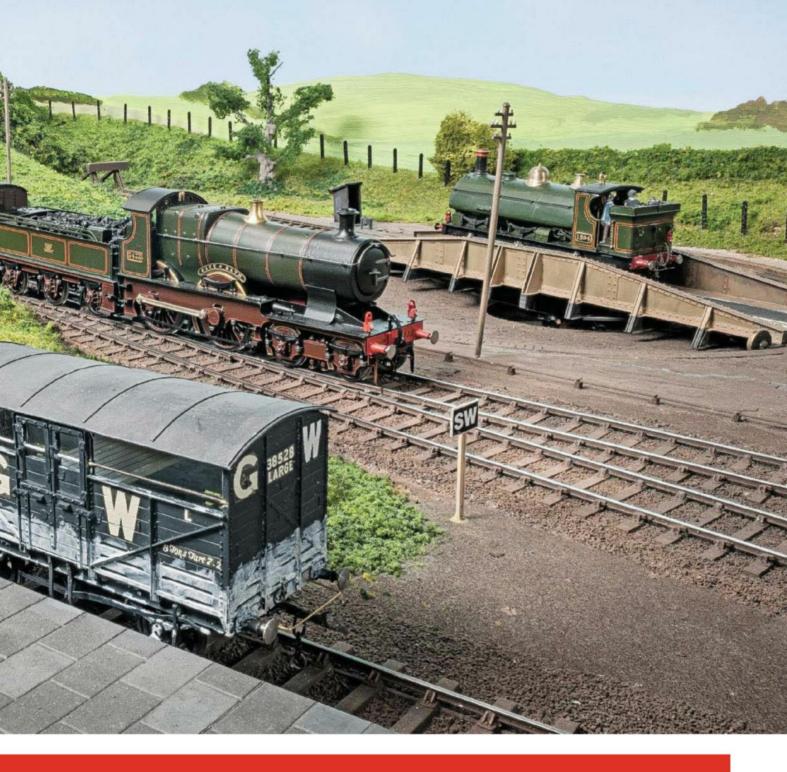


'Buffalo' O-6-OST No. 1594 - M&L whitemetal kit, with Portescap motor. $\label{eq:continuous} % \begin{subarray}{ll} \end{subarray} % \begin{sub$



'City' 4-4-0 No. 3433 *City of Bath* in 1903 monogram livery - Martin Finney kit with Portescap RG4 motor and gears.

YOU CAN - WITHIN REASON - DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN YOU MAKE THINGS UP, THEY MUST LOOK RIGHT ""





'Aberdare' 2-6-0 No. 2676 - Martin Finney kit with working inside crank shafts. Portescap RG4 motor and gearbox.



'Grange' 4-6-0 No. 6837 Fordhampton Grange - Malcolm Mitchell kit, Ultrascale wheels and Portescap RG4 motor and gearbox.



'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4906 *Bradfield Hall* - Martin Finney kit with Ultrascale wheels and Portescap RG4 motor and gearbox.

FUN AND FRAMES

There's a lot of interesting stuff behind the layout. The control setup is so impressive it's almost a shame that it's hidden from view...

"The lever frame was bought second-hand. One of our members found it at a swapmeet - the levers actually work," says Richard. "Some layouts use a lever frame that mechanically operates points, but our frame works via hidden switches.

"It is very satisfying for the signaller to operate. You don't just change switches, you actually have to pull miniature signal levers with working locking catches."

The club have also crafted indicator panels to aid both the signalmen and drivers - another fine aesthetic touch. Finally, the driver controls are neatly attached to hook and loop fasteners when not in use.



Red or green lights on the display panel indicate which controller is set to operate each track section.

down the road from where 'Brixcombe' is purported to be," says Richard.

In reality, Brixham station isn't nearly as isolated as 'Brixcombe', with a school and a row of terraced housing situated nearby.

"There are positives and negatives when building a fictitious location," he says. "Obviously you can - within reason - do whatever you want. On the other hand, when you make things up, they *must* look right."

By building a freelance layout inspired by a real location, the FDMRC had the option of falling back



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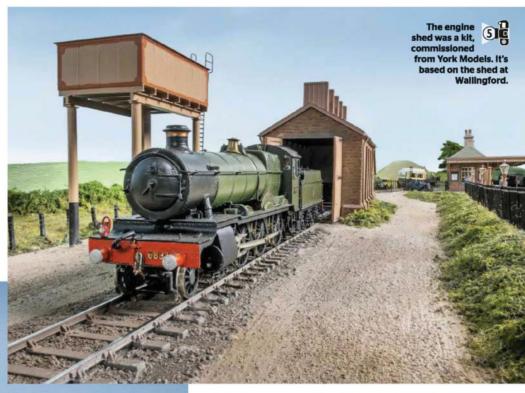
onto the prototype, alleviating the pressure of crafting a realistic landscape entirely from scratch.

REALLY RAILWAY

Part of 'Brixcombe's' charm is that it's unashamedly railway-focused. From the sweeping curvature of the track right down to the tiniest detail, such as a fire devil (which heats the water crane), every effort has been made to fully realise the railway.

Richard says that much of the layout's success is down to the planning: "We would write down exactly what we were going to do \(\o \)

'Small Prairie'
2-6-2T
No. 2172
- Churchward Models
kit, with Portescap
RG4 motor and gears.







The turntable is scratchbuilt. Pieces of brass were carefully cut to mimic those from a brass kit - rivets and other details were added before assembly.

INSIDE THE BOX

'Brixcombe' has been designed for portability and comprises some very cleverly constructed baseboards. Each side and end is built from two thin pieces of plywood - spaced apart to reduce weight, while maintaining stability. The main surface of the baseboards is plywood, too.

Each board is paired with a lid made from

plywood ends, with sides and top made from foamboard. Each lid is therefore light and rigid enough to be stacked, making it easier to transport.



■ LAYOUT BRIXCOMBE

and then research it. The point rodding is a good example, we spoke to Martin Goodall - a GWR expert and modeller who has featured in publications such as *Scalefour News* - to make sure our plan was right."

With different modellers all working on the same layout, how has the club achieved such a consistent level of quality? Richard discusses the merits of having the same goals: "One of the disciplines in finescale modelling is that everyone is working towards the same objective - to make a scale model that's as true to reality as possible."

TO DO LIST

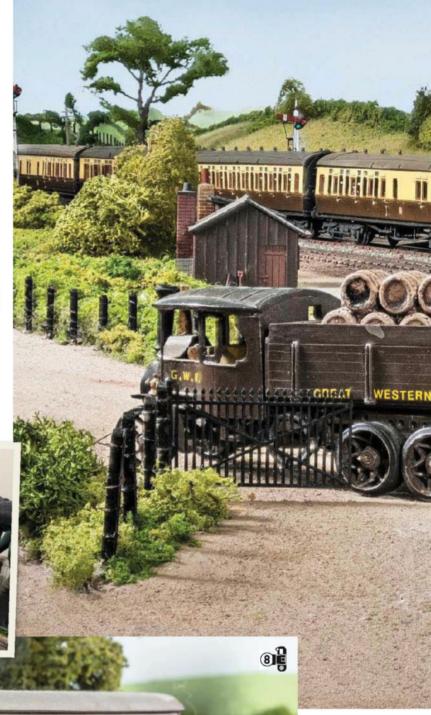
Touring the exhibition circuit has identified a few areas that the club would like to improve. Variations of ballast colour are likely to be implemented in the near future, with the scenery receiving a slight facelift, too.

VINYL COUNTDOWN

The backscene is hand-painted onto a vinyl surface. Richard notes that the flexible material used on 'Brixcombe' is 1mm thick, and that the club stitched several pieces together to form a 20ft long roll.

The backscene is attached to the layout superstructure using hook and loop fasteners. As Richard says: "It takes two people about two to three minutes to put it up - one to hold the roll and the other to sort the fasteners."





Above: The sense of space is a key observation and mimics the real railway perfectly.

Left: This grounded coach body makes for an excellent cameo; it's an ancient K's tooling of a GWR coach, with plastic card doors and roof.

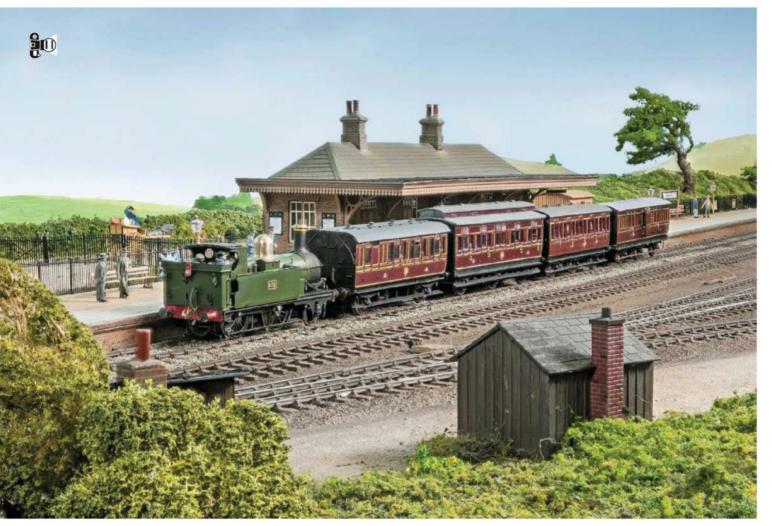




Left: A GWR 1½ton Thorneycroft van, built from a Keilkraft/ Davric kit.

Right: A GWR Thorneycroft lorry, built from a plastic Peco kit.





LE EVERYONE IS WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME OBJECTIVE - TO MAKE A SCALE MODEL THAT'S AS TRUE TO REALITY AS POSSIBLE !!

Above: The station and goods shed were built from laser-cut Timber Tracks kits, painted using RailMatch paints.

Below: Signals are a combination of etched and whitemetal components from Masokits and David Geen. The signal box is an etched brass kit from Churchward Models - finished with Phoenix Precision Paints.

"We've tried to leave the scenery fairly uncluttered," says Richard. "But there are one or two places where we feel we ought to add a little more detail, such as bits of scrap, wildflowers, and weeds.

"We'd also like to improve the layout's operation by replacing the magnetic coupler system with electromagnetic couplers. And operating each coupler at the push of a button will give us more control."

SIGHTSEEING

'Brixcombe' is a layout that seasoned modellers are certain to enjoy. It's beautiful to look at, crammed with operating potential, and is a showcase of marvellous (and often slightly unusual) kit-built GWR stock.

The GWR branch line theme might be tried and tested, but when the execution is this good it still stands out. If you get the chance, make sure you see 'Brixcombe' for yourself. And (if you ask *really* nicely) you might just get a peek behind the scenes at that superb control system.



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Show & Tell

This is the place to share your latest layout or project with fellow modellers. Every issue we publish a selection of your best photographs and stories, as well as interesting oddities and, occasionally, modelling disasters.

Trains on the big day

Jill Cubbin, by e-mail

My passion for modelling came from my late granddad; he used to make and sail model boats on Southport marina. He also had some track, nailed to a green baseboard, which he would bring out of the garage for family occasions - it had no scenery or buildings, but I loved it dearly. I have integrated sections of

that track into my own layout.

I'm lucky enough to have a whole room dedicated to my hobby, which includes memorabilia, a few of my granddad's old boats and trains, and - of course - my layout. The bulk of the track is 'OO', with a small section dedicated to

'N' gauge.

I started to lay the track six years

ago. It's an unfinished bu project, but I'm sure there will always be

something to add or change. I'm fully aware that a few of the cars are a little anachronistic, and that they might not be prototypical, but it's my hobby and I love it!
I find that the hours drift by
while I'm playing trains - I could
even be found in my train room on
the morning of my wedding day.
Isn't it a bride's prerogative to be

a little late, after all?

Above: Jill loves being in her train room so much, she couldn't resist playing trains on the morning of her wedding day.

Model landscapes

Alan Freeman, by e-mail

These images were sent in by Alan's wife, Janet, and depict two great layouts. The first is called 'Roshven', as Janet explains: "It was once an alternative site to the rail terminus at Mallaig. It's based on a typical West Highland Line station, with a fishing pontoon, and smoke houses, modelled on those at Grimsby."

The second is based on a fictional Welsh colliery town, complete with a ruined castle (inspired by Criccieth Castle, North Wales). "Alan's forte is landscape," says Janet. "He wouldn't describe his creations as model railways, but rather models of landscapes with trains." A fitting description indeed.



Above: Alan's larger Welsh colliery town layout, which has been weathered with a suitably grimy effect.

Below: The fine micro layout 'Roshven' is based on an unidentified West Highland Line station. The hand-painted backscene is particularly impressive, and portrays the wildly undulating Highland landscape perfectly.



According to Janet, the trawler features details from Grimsby vessels of the 1940-1960 period, but is based on an actual boat built in Aberdeen in 1912. It was at Dunkirk during the Second World War, when it was renamed 'Feasible', and is now registered as an historic vessel.



How to join in

We want to see your projects in Model Rail, be they layouts, locomotives or rolling stock, scenery or structures. If you have something you're proud of and would like to share it with your fellow readers, send two to three digital images and a brief description to mike.harris@bauermedia.co.uk. You can also send prints or slides, with a brief description to the editorial address (see top of page). Finally, if you have any failed or stalled projects or models that have gone wrong, why not share them and explain how not to do it?

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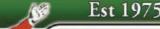
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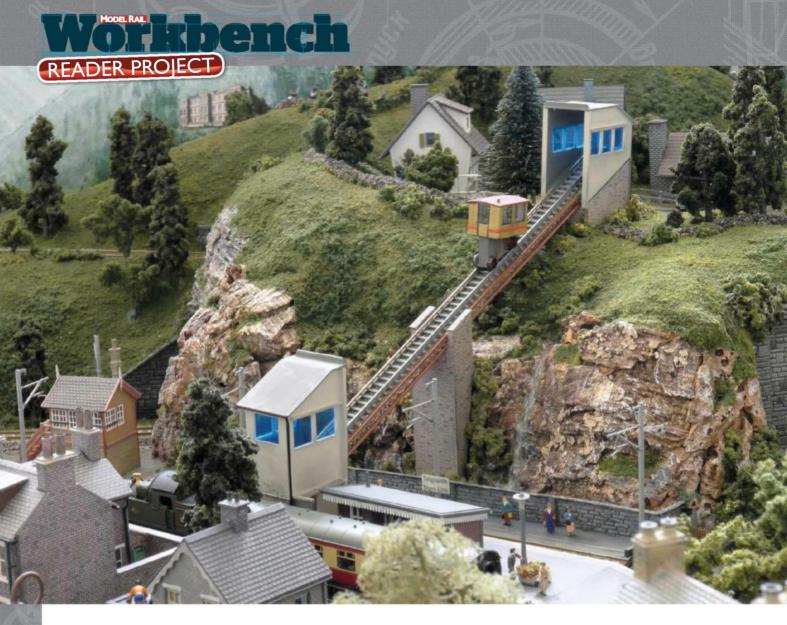
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HOW TO...BUILD AFUNICULAR

Modeller and author **GRAHAM GOODCHILD** puts the fun into funicular with this scratchbuild project.

he funicular railway is an often-overlooked part of Britain's railway network even though there are (no pun intended) some 20-odd up and down the country. The premise is simple: if you have a steep hill or cliff, why not build a railway and haul cars up and down it using a cable, to save legs - both human and animal - from the climb?

There are numerous forms of funicular railway. The Great Orme Tramway and the Cairngorm Mountain Railway are, technically, both funiculars. The classic form is the short cliff railway with two four-wheel cars on parallel tracks. Most are now

electrically powered, except for one of the most famous: the Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway.

It was with remarkable foresight that Victorian engineers built a mode of transport with zero emissions. Water is pumped into the tank of the car at the top. The tank of the opposing car is emptied, so gravity pulls the heavier top car down.

You'd be surprised just how many towns have a funicular railway although the great proportion are located at coastal resorts because of the cliffs. That said, a working funicular railway will provide an interesting focal point on any layout.

The main requirement is that there is

some sort of hill or cliff feature on the landscape to accommodate the inclined track for the funicular carriages to run up and down, and also there should be space for the top and bottom station buildings.

Obviously, the scale of the funicular depends on the scale and dimensions of your layout.

Most funiculars are narrow gauge, so I always work to the same standards as traditional narrow gauge modelling: 9mm 'N' gauge track for 'OO', and so forth. My layout is 'N' gauge and there's not a lot of room, so I chose to construct a funicular with just one 2mm:1ft scale car running on 6.5mm 'Z' gauge track.

WINCH MECHANISM

The heart of my funicular is a 6V motor with a multi-ratio gearbox from the Hobbies Catalogue (www.alwayshobbies.com).

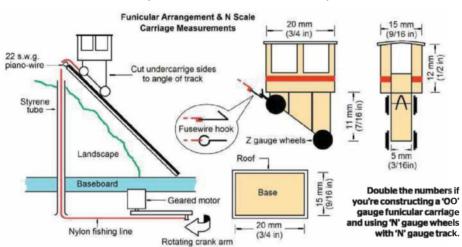
The accompanying diagram shows how the mechanism goes together. Thin plywood or thick balsawood is suitable for the crank, the length of which determines the maximum length of inclined track upon which a tethered car can travel.

The crank arm on mine is 100mm from the centre of the gearbox output shaft and it has a screw on the end, to which I've attached a nylon line. The rotating crank arm will therefore provide a total incline distance of 200mm. Fitting a longer crank will permit a carriage to proportionally travel further along an extended length of track. About two revolutions per minute of the

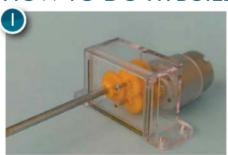
crank arm will give a realistic tethered hauling speed of a funicular carriage, with the geared motor connected to a 3V electrical supply.

Thin nylon fishing line is ideal because it slides easily over relatively tight corners, such as over the top of the track where the line is attached to the carriage. One end of the nylon line is tied to a small plastic pulley which is screwed into the end of the crank arm. Washers are inserted under the pulley to prevent the line from snagging on the crank arm as it rotates.

The nylon line is threaded through a 5mm diameter styrene tube in the baseboard, which emerges through the cliff top where the funicular track is to be located. The bottom end of the styrene tube is flared to assist the nylon line run more freely.



HOW TO DO IT: BUILD THE MECHANISM



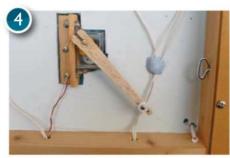
The 6V motor with gearbox came from Hobbies (www.alwayshobbies.com). The gearbox comes pre-assembled, but the ratio can be easily changed by removing one or more intermediate gears.



To flare out the end of the tube, heat the metal tip of a screwdriver (over a candle, lighter or, if you're very careful, on the gas ring on the hob) and press it into the styrene tube.

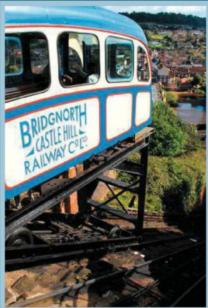


With the position of the funicular winch mechanism marked on the underside of the layout baseboard, a hole is cut out to accommodate the winch motor.



The motor and gearbox is mounted onto a balsa wood bracket. It's screwed into a recess in the rigid foam baseboard using coarse-threaded self-tapping screws with PVA on the thread. Note the flared end of the tube, bottom right.

FUNICULAR INSPIRATION



George Croydon Marks and Sir George Newnes pioneered the water balance funicular railway and the 200ft cliff that separates Bridgnorth High Town from Low Town meant that the Shropshire town was an ideal candidate for the form of transport. It opened in 1891 and has been much-modified. The aluminium cars, as their style would suggest, date from the 1950s; electricity was installed in 1944 and bullhead track was a 1970s innovation. LUCY THOMAS/ALAMY



The Aberystwyth Cliff Railway is a 4ft 8½in gauge railway that opened in 1896. The 778ft line connects the top and bottom of Constitution Hill, to the north of the town, which offers spectacular views of the Welsh coast. Originally a water-balance funicular, it's been powered by electricity since 1921. DAVID NEWHAM/ALAMY



The work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel dominates Bristol's Avon Gorge, but one of its hidden gems is the Clifton Rocks Railway. This underground railway has four parallel tracks. It was another George Croydon Marks/Sir George Newnes funicular project and although it opened to much fanfare in 1893, it closed in 1934. The tunnels were used by the BBC until 1960, and now a preservation group aims to restore it to working order.

RICHARD NAUDE/ALAMY

Workbench

THE CAR

The car is a freelance design, inspired by some of the smaller prototypical funicular railways. The base is 1mm thick styrene sheet and the four sides are made from clear polyester sheet to a similar thickness. Strips of paper-thin styrene were glued to the clear plastic to form the body panels and window frames.

The undercarriage box that supports the 'Z' gauge wheels was also made from 1mm styrene. The bottom of the undercarriage box should follow the same angle as your inclined trackbed.

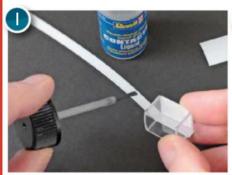
Slots are required in the bottom of the undercarriage sides to accommodate the two 'Z' gauge wheels. The axles are retained by cutting and gluing styrene sheet along the bottom and side edges of the undercarriage sides to form a box. Thin piano wire is cut and bent to form the hook attachment for the nylon winch line and the hook attachment glued to the bottom of the undercarriage using cyanoacrylate. I inserted a small nut to provide stability to the carriage and allow it to freewheel down the track.

A 3D-printed 'N' gauge scale passenger figure is glued to a false floor, cut from styrene sheet and glued inside the carriage. Finally, I cut and curved the carriage roof from styrene sheet and glued it to the top of the carriage sides, together with styrene webbing supports on each side of the undercarriage to replicate the webbing supports of a real funicular car.

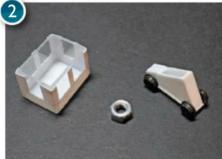
TOOLS



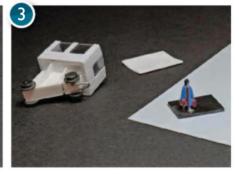
HOW TO DO IT: BUILD THE CAR



The car body, which also forms the windows, is cut and glued together from clear styrene sheet, and strips of paper-thin white styrene glued over the top to form the body panels around the windows.



Styrene sheet is cut and glued together to form the box-shaped undercarriage which houses the two 'Z' gauge wheelsets. I cut an opening in the top of the undercarriage and placed a metal nut inside to add weight and increase stability.



A bent piece of thin piano wire, glued to the underside of the undercarriage, forms a loop where the hook and line will attach. The figure is glued onto a false floor and inserted inside the carriage prior to gluing on the roof.

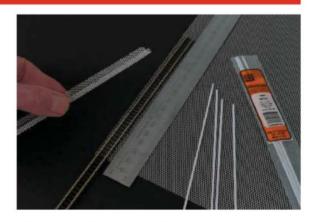
THE TRACK

The length of my incline was just a bit longer than a single standard 220mm length of 'Z' gauge sectional track (www.modelrailshop.co.uk/product/15501/Straight_Track_length_220mm) so I made some extension pieces from styrene.

The track was glued onto wire mesh to replicate a girder effect. The mesh is the stuff used to repair car bodies (available from Halfords). Balsa wood attached to the underside provides strength and support, while the longitudinal girders, cut from styrene strip, are glued to the sides.

The supporting pillar for the track is constructed from sheet balsa and is covered with glued-on stone print card. The top of the pillar is glued to the underside of the track bed. Foam landscaping foliage is glued to the landscape to disguise the gap at the bottom of the pillar between the ground and the cliff face.

The track bed is cut and bent from aluminium mesh with the aid of a steel rule to form the folded sides. Styrene strip is used to make the longitudinal girders which are glued to the sides of the track bed.



BUILDINGS

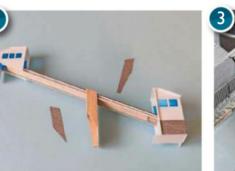
The top and bottom buildings are constructed with the carriage placed on the track. This ensures adequate clearance between the building sides and the carriage. The shapes of the buildings are first sketched onto thin card, which is used as a template with the car *in situ* and the template used as a guide for cutting out the building sides from 1mm (0.40in) styrene sheet. I used blue-tinted acetate sheet for the windows, although clear acetate works just as well. The windows are glued to the inside of the buildings prior to the roofs being glued on.

Roof guttering is made from black styrene rod on which the upper side has been ground flat using coarse glass paper. These are then glued along the lower edges of the roofs. The down pipes are cut and bent to shape from black styrene rod and are glued to one corner of each of the buildings.

HOW TO DO IT: CREATE THE BUILDINGS



Construct both buildings by transferring a card template onto 1mm styrene sheet. Build both stations with the car *in situ* to ensure that it will fit properly.



The building sides are glued to the sides of the track bed, which may require strips of styrene glued in between to prevent the building sides from obstructing the car.

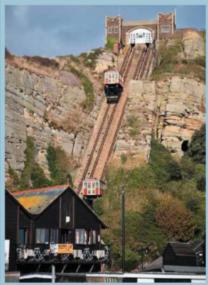


Balsawood is used to strengthen the underside of the track bed and to construct the support pillar. Metcalfe stone effect printed card is glued to the pillar sides, and around parts of the buildings.

FUNICULAR INSPIRATION



The Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway is still powered by water, just as it was when it opened in 1890. The two 3ft 9in gauge cars traverse the 862ft track that links the twin North Devon towns. DBPHOTS/ALAMY



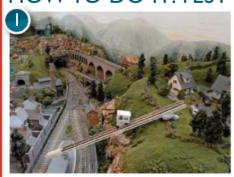
Hastings has not one but two funicular cliff railways. This is the East Hill Cliff Railway, which is 5ft gauge and 267ft long, and opened in 1903. The West Hill Cliff Railway is older (1889) and longer (500ft) and mainly runs through a tunnel. Both are now electrically powered. JOHN BIRDSALL/ALAMY

TESTING, TESTING...

To test the funicular system, make a small hook from household fuse wire and tie the nylon to it. This clips to the piano wire coupling on the car. Use Blu-Tack to temporarily support each end of the track, and the geared motor wired, via a switch, to

a 3V to 6V power supply. You may need to make several adjustments to the length of the nylon line so that the carriage travels the correct distance without falling off the end of the track.

HOW TO DO IT: TEST THE SYSTEM



This view shows the temporary track standing on the layout. Here, the carriage is attached to the nylon line and tested with the motorised crank arm connected to the power. Note the rail extension at the lower end of the track.



Construct a permanent base for the track. The cliff top building is constructed from balsawood, rigid foam and filler. Piano wire is glued across the end of the track to reduce friction on the nylon line. Fuse wire is used to form the hook.



The funicular is fastened to the layout with small screws, as shown here on the lower building.

Workbench

PAINTING AND DETAILING



I used acrylic paint throughout. I lightly dry-brushed the mesh and the girders with brown, while the sleepers were dry-brushed with grey to provide a weathered effect. As with other parts of the layout, I painted the rail sides with a rust colour and cleaned the rail heads to prevent excess paint from affecting performance.

I replicated oily patches on the sleepers by smudging them with pencil graphite, using my fingers.

Building interiors are grey, as are the roofs, which were weathered with a light coat of white acrylic. Externally, the building walls are buff coloured with stone printed card glued around the base. I used

the smudged pencil graphite effect again to give the walls a dirty, grimy effect.

The car chassis is grey, as is the roof vent. The roof is brown and the body is gold. Self-adhesive red vinyl lining, from Hobbies, was applied and the window frames were picked out with a fine-tipped black marker pen.

Above: Steps leading up to the cliff top building are formed by layering and gluing overlapping pieces of styrene sheet. The path is made out of Metcalfe paving effect card.

Left: Guttering and downpipes on the buildings are made from styrene rod, while dirt and grime on the walls is replicated with smudged pencil marks. Posters on the wall are from the Tiny Signs range marketed by Gaugemaster. Planting a few scenic trees on the landscape will soften the impact of the cliff top building.



READ ALL ABOUT IT

If you want to find out more about the construction of this funicular railway, check out Graham's new book, Building a Folding Model Railway Layout - a Comprehensive Guide. Published by Crowood Press, it's available from all good bookshops, or direct from www.crowood.com



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HOW TO MAKEASHIP-FROMA£10 PLANTER!

PAUL A. LUNN has a view to a keel as he converts a cheap plant pot into a 'OO' gauge ocean-going ship.

t was while I worked on last issue's layout design, inspired by Liverpool's docks and the Overhead Railway, that I realised Just what a shortage of good-sized scale ships there are in 'OO' gauge. I needed at least one big ship for both plans, but despite extensive searching, I found nothing. Scratchbuilding could be problematic, given the complex shape of the bow and stern sections.

The answer came from an unexpected but somewhat familiar source - a garden plant pot. I used this inexpensive, everyday item when I wanted to make a power station cooling tower (MR226). Could it also be the answer to my 'OO' gauge scale ship issue?

I found this Stewart Terracotta
Trough planter for less than a
tenner at my local garden centre.
Size-wise, it looked about right, but
there are clearly some shape issues.
Would I be able to turn it into a ship?
I retired to my garage to find out!

Above: This inexpensive planter has a couple of ridges near the bottom, but is otherwise undecorated on the sides and ideal for the purpose.

SHIP SIZE

It's easy to underestimate the size of an ocean-going ship. Southampton, London, Liverpool, Bristol; all were home to these behemoths of the seas. If you think my planter ship looks too big, consider this: Queen Elizabeth 2, one of the most famous liners of all time, is 963ft long and 171ft high. That's roughly the same as 13 Class 40s parked end to end and stacked 13 high!



Left: By the time this card was posted, on July 13 1912, the port's future was already threatened by the success of Southampton Docks, the Manchester Ship Canal and services available at Hull.

HOW TO DO IT: TURN A PLANTER INTO A SHIP



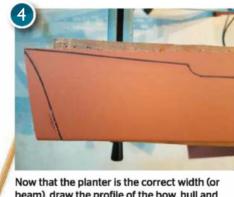
Start by removing the top rim, or lip. I used the excellent Bahco PrizeCut saw, which is specifically designed to cut plastic.



Then remove the base, just where the indents starts. Support it well and saw gently so you don't to crack the polypropylene.



Secure the planter body (I found a Black and Decker Workmate to be ideal) and heat it with a hairdryer. Keep the dryer moving to apply heat evenly. Hold it in the Workmate while the plastic cools.



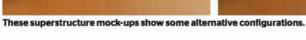
Now that the planter is the correct width (or beam), draw the profile of the bow, hull and stern using a marker pen. Cut the shape with a jigsaw.



Cut a base in the shape of a ship. Screw the plastic to the wood but don't fully drive the screws home - the sides will need to slope outwards. Don't worry about appearance - the ship will be buried in 'sea', above screw level.

Greater Manchester had quite a large locomotive manufacturing industry. Beyer Peacock built a batch of Garratt 4-8-2+2-8-4Ts for the Luanda Railway in Angola in 1949. One of the Garratt's power bogies is hoisted aboard a ship at Liverpool, ready for its journey to Africa. SSPL/GETTY IMAGES







Worldengh



Use Mr Sticky's two-part Poly-Bonder glue from www.repairing products.co.uk to glue the bow. Formulated for polypropylene, it can be used as a filler. Leave for a few days to cure and then sand away any excess.



Make six packing pieces from MDF, cut to a curved hull profile. Screw them to the base from the underside. Use bits of plastic to keep the hull edge straight. A length of elastic is ideal for holding the bow together as the glue cures.



Make deck sections from card using templates by tracing round the upturned hull. Reduce to accommodate thickness of the ship's sides and width, as it reduces between ship walls, lower down, at the top of the MDF packers.



I set out to prove that the planter ship concept worked, so the only detail I've included is a superstructure mock-up, crane rigs (pencils and skewers) and a funnel (toilet roll tube). It's still not true to scale, but pretty good for less than £10!



Gladstone Dock (2), Seaforth.

Above: Cotton, timber, corn, wool and grain traffic all passed through Liverpool's docks, but in the late 1930s a new 'product' was handled there. As war with Germany loomed, and in an effort to modernise its fleet, the RAF ordered new aircraft from the United States. Lockheed Hudsons stand on Liverpool's dockside in 1939, ready for assembly. After the war started, they were flown to the UK via Canada. The Liverpool Overhead Railway is in the background. GETTY

Left: The Liverpool and Manchester Railway laid the first tracks to King's Dock in 1833. It was extended in 1835, and had reached its maximum length by the 1840s. Gladstone No. 2 dock was the last to be built and was home to Cunard ships. It would have been an impressive scene when viewed from passing Overhead Railway stock, on the track at the bottom left of the image. The railway track was massively expanded prior to the Second World War, and during its early years.

WHAT NEXT?

The lifting/swing bridge, centre left, gave access to the Stanley Dock Tobacco Warehouse and beyond to the Leeds and Liverpool canal. See 'Dabbling with Dapol - Part 2' overleaf for an inexpensive way to model a dockside swing bridge.

INSPIRATION: LIVERPOOL DOCKS

Space constraints in the last issue meant that we couldn't go into much detail about Liverpool's extensive and hugely interesting dock network. The borough of Liverpool was founded in 1207, but it was the increase in trans-Atlantic trade and the silting of the nearby River Dee that turned it into the northwest's premier port.

The first wet dock was built in 1715 and, by the Victorian era, Liverpool had been dubbed the 'New York of Europe'. Until the 1950s and 1960s, Liverpool was a bustling and important port, and while the amount of seaborne freight handled there has dwindled, there's still plenty of maritime activity with cross-river ferries, services to the Isle of Man and ocean liners.

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DABBLING WITH DAPOL 2:

CONVERT A TURNTABLE INTO A SWING BRIDGE

Taking a closer look at Dapol's comprehensive range of kits was a pivotal moment for **PAUL A. LUNN**, who finds a different use for an unloved turntable kit.

'd forgotten just how comprehensive Dapol's range of plastic kits was until I started my research for the 'Dabbling with Dapol' kit-bashing feature in MR232. One kit that started me thinking was the CO01 Turntable, which was always pretty useless as a turntable, but I had a feeling that the girders could be suitable for something else.

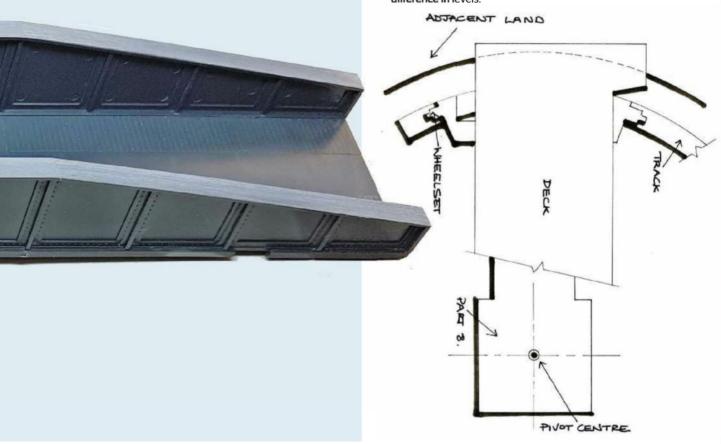


It was while I was cutting and hacking at the church kit that I had an idea: those girders would be ideal for a small dockside bridge. Further inspiration came from the little swing bridge at Hayle Wharf, in Cornwall.

I've used the deck in its entirety, but with wheelsets at just one end. At the lowest level, the deck rotates on part 8, which is held to the circular running rail at one side only, with part 7 or 9. You'll need to use part 2 and some sections of curved track, sufficient to cover a quarter-turn, so when it's fully open the deck will be at right angles to its starting position. This provides a clear route for boat traffic along the narrow river inlet, as at Hayle. More advanced modellers may wish to motorise the unit, or convert it for rail use.

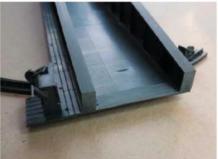
Swing into action

On the prototype you'll see each end of the bridge is curved, to allow the bridge to turn. While advanced modellers might wish to shorten the girders accordingly, it's a substantial task for beginners. A simple solution would be to let the deck pass over the adjacent scenic baseboard, as shown in the accompanying drawing and photos. As you can see, I've reduced the underside mouldings at both ends to achieve closer contact to the adjoining road, and I've 'feathered' the deck edge, also at both ends, to minimise any difference in levels.





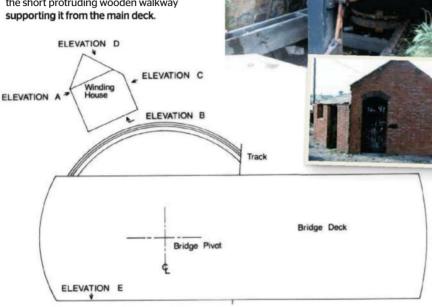




Workbench

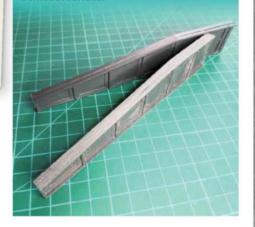
Power house

Hayle Wharves Swing Bridge has a separate winding house, as shown on the plan below, containing a chain-driven winding mechanism and a brake lever (the elevation labels aren't relevant to this makeover). Modellers may prefer this interpretation using a Dapol hut from the Trackside Accessories pack, in which case you'll need to remove parts 7 and 54 and the short protruding wooden walkway supporting it from the main deck.



SMOOTH OPERATION

The kit's main weaknesses are moulding flash lines and release slopes, top and bottom, along the full length of both girders. The accompanying photos show the method for cleaning and squaring up all edges, and demonstrate the clear benefit, in terms of appearance, for gluing girders squarely to the deck. Note the rear section is untreated, whereas the foreground section has been 'sanded' using medium grade wet and dry paper, without water. I usually work through several grades of paper, from coarse to very fine, to achieve a smooth surface.



TURNTABLE TRANSFORMATION

For those wanting to stick with the turntable theme, have a look at this effort from my friend Peter Salmon. Peter has removed the handrails from Hornby's RO70 Turntable

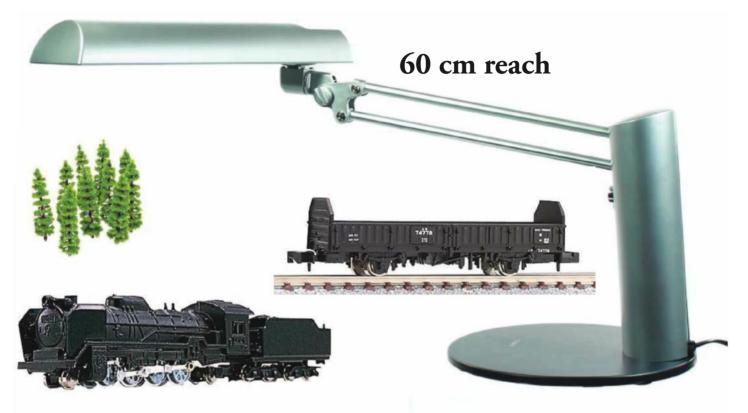
and replaced them with the girders from Dapol's kit. The turntable deck was suitably 'rusted' with ModelMates products, while Wills Kits chequer plate was placed either side of the track and Wills Kits wood planking inserted between the running rails. PICTURE: PETER SALMON



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MAKE A FOAM CALL

l'm laying and ballasting Setrack for the first time. Can you recommend a type of underlay that will reduce the sound of operating trains, and is easy to use? Ally Cohen, via e-mail.

Woodland Scenics Track-Bed Roll is available in 'N', 'OO'/'HO' and 'O'. The foam underlay absorbs the noise of passing trains and is easily cut to size using a sharp craft knife. It can be fixed with PVA glue or Woodland Scenics Foam Tack Glue.

According to Woodland Scenics, the product can be used in conjunction with cork sheet, will remain flexible, and will not dry out over time. For tight curves, it is recommended that you separate the product along the centre seam before repositioning the two pieces snugly together.

Track-Bed Strips are also available,

as is Track-Bed Super Sheet - which is suitable for use beneath goods yards and points.

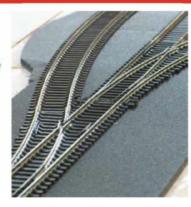
Below you'll find a step-by-step tutorial on how to lay and ballast track on top of foam underlay. I used a single Track-Bed Roll (7.3m) and a single Track-Bed Super Sheet (30cm by 61cm). It took me around one hour to lay the necessary foam underlay on a layout loop containing three points and a siding. (Peter Marriott)

If you take the time to produce a flat and stable baseboard, the track laying will be much easier, and the layout much more enjoyable to operate.





A strip of 'HO'/'OO' Track-Bed Roll; the sides are bevelled to represent the ballast shoulder. The central seam line can be pulled apart to better accommodate tight curves.





Above: When using Track-Bed Roll or Strips with points, you'll need to cut additional pieces to accommodate the curved secondary section of track - the additional piece will need to be bevelled.

Left: Using Super Sheets makes laying Track-Bed under points easier and quicker because the sections do not have to be cut to size. Super Sheets are particularly useful when laying lots of parallel track together, like goods yard for example.

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HOW TO DO IT: TRACK LAYING



The Peco website provides templates of points and crossings that can be downloaded and printed. This is a good way to see how the track layout will look like before buying the pieces of track.



Use a good quality rail cutter to cut the flexible or sectional track - I used DCCconcepts Track Cutters. Clean up the cut rails using a small file and, after the track is lightly fixed to the baseboard, run a train to test the track before it is firmly fixed to the baseboard.





Make sure that the rails and the fishplates (track joiners) fit snugly together - misaligned fishplates can cause derailments. Check a join by pushing the piece of track together on a flat surface and run your fingers over it before fixing the track.



Spread PVA glue on top of the Track-Bed to fix the track. This allows for some repositioning, so if you don't get it right first time, you have a few minutes to make any adjustments.



I would recommend weathering your track before ballasting. The easiest method is to use a matt brown acrylic aerosol - I used Humbrol Dark Brown. Masking tape should be used to protect the moving parts of each point.

BASEBOARD JOINS



Once laid, weathered and ballasted, the only thing left to address is the baseboard joins. I used an electric drill with a slitting disc to cut through the sleepers and rails.



I then used a needle file to clean up the cut ends of the rails before fitting fishplates onto each rail on one baseboard. The baseboards were then carefully paired, with the corresponding rails sliding into the fishplates.

HOW TO DO IT: BALLAST TRACK



I've found that the Gravelboy Ballast Spreader from DCC Train Automation is a quick and easy way to distribute ballast. Simply drag the device across a few centimetres of track.



I drenched the ballast in WWS Track Ballast Glue - a ready-made, specialist adhesive formulated for fixing ballast. It dries much quicker than PVA/washing-up liquid solution.



Gently tap both rails with the handle of a scalpel or similarly weighted implement to further settle ballast between the sleepers. Then carefully brush away any excess material.



Leave any points until last and ballast them by hand - ensuring that any moving parts can still work accordingly. I'd recommend applying very small amounts of ballast with a teaspoon.

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Martin Ainsworth, by e-mail

Ready-to-run models may be lovely to look at or fun to play with, but the frustration of losing bits when you take them apart, or finding that you can't add extra detail can provoke some 'colourful' language. Here are five simple tips and tricks that should stop the air from turning blue!



DON'T LOSE YOUR THREAD

Ready-to-run models are held together by lots of small, fiddly screws. They're often black and difficult to see when they're on the model, but if they roll off your desk and onto the carpet, they're nearly invisible.

You could store them in a small container, but a better option is to use a small magnet to hold them. Either tape a small piece of magnetic strip to the edge of a cutting mat and drop the screws onto it, or keep a button-type magnet handy (the sort used on notice boards), so you can use it to pick up the screws off the desk.

THE FINER POINTS

The fine gel pens that you see in art shops look as though they should have a use on a layout. But what?

They have very fine nibs, typically 0.7mm, and can replace a very fine paintbrush. A white gel pen can be used to add detail such as chalk markings on wagons, or highlight details like lamp brackets. It is worth pointing out that in 'OO' gauge these pens are not fine enough to create scale lettering, but with a little practice and care we can get close.

A gold or brass gel pen can be used for highlighting pipes on steam locomotives, especially those inside the cab. Highlighting this detail with a small paintbrush is difficult and has the potential for causing drips and splashes, whereas gel pens don't drip or splash. As they are designed for use on card or paper, they do have an occasional tendency to stop working on plastic, but after a quick scribble on a piece of card they'll start working again.



GRAPHITE CLUB

Remember all your school pencils that had HB stamped on them? Ever wondered what HB stands for? Well, it's a classification system for the hardness or blackness of a pencil.

A 9H pencil has a really hard graphite/clay mix, giving a very faint line, whereas a 9B is a soft mix, which creates a dark line.



An HB sits firmly in the middle of the scale. Why am I talking about pencils? Well, a 9B pencil can be used on rolling stock to give a coal or coal dust effect.

Many model locomotives have moulded coal loads, and rubbing a 9B pencil over this plastic coal in several directions will give it a much more realistic coal-like appearance than the plain black plastic. You can also run a 9B over the bunker, tender and wagon sides to simulate the coal dust that collects on surfaces. Running a 9B pencil around the inside and floor of an empty coal wagon gives a really convincing 'just used' effect.

ROLL MODEL

You know that your supposedly flat workbench isn't truly flat when you put a wheelset on it and it rolls away...

What do you do? You can't put them on end as the axles have 'pin points', and you don't want to run the risk of securing them with tape or Blu Tack as you might find that residue will hamper future performance.



Simply place one axle on top of the other to make a cross. This simple little tip will stop them rolling away and they'll stay put, ready to be re-inserted when needed.

Jammed tight?

Most of us will have tins or jars of paint that we've had for ages, on which the lid or cap will be stuck fast because of dried paint inside the lid. The usual solution is to lever the lid off with a screwdriver, or to try to loosen the cap in a pair of mole grips. In the worst case scenario, you'd just buy new paint. But that's a bit like using a hammer to crack a nut.

What we need to do is loosen the dry paint. Apply a small amount of thinners or Deluxe Materials Paint Magic with a brush around the lid, or turn the bottle upside down and use a brush to feed the liquid into the cap.

Leave it for a few minutes to soften the paint and you should now be able to carefully remove the lid or cap. Now take a piece of kitchen towel and clean all the softened paint from the lid and rim of the tin, or the inside of the cap and bottle top. This will stop any lumps getting into your paint and should prevent it from happening again.



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thinking outside the square concepts



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Apr 8

HELLESDON, NORFOLK. Norwich Railway Heritage and Model Society MRE. Hellesdon High School, Middletons Lane, Hellesdon NR6 5SB. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: £5. Tel: 01508 492917. E-mail: tsd24@btinternet.com Web: www.norhams.org.uk

HEYWOOD, LANCS. Heywood MRG MRE. Club Rooms. Unit 3, Park Works, River St, Heywood OL10 4AB. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Web:** www.hmrg.co.uk

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK. Ipswich RMA. Club Rooms, 40a Norfolk Road, Ipswich IP4 2HB. Time: 1000-1300. Tel: 01473 251017. Web: www.irma.org.uk

REDHILL, SURREY. East Surrey N Gauge. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Linkfield Lane, Redhill RH1 1DU. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2, Family £10. E-mail: bart.hyd@gmail.com

SHIREHAMPTON, BRISTOL. Shirehampton MRC Open Day. The Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton BS11 9TX. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £3, Child £1.50. Tel: 0117 909 4915.

YIEWSLEY, LONDON. Hillingdon Railway Modellers Test Track Open Day. Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall, 74 Colham Avenue, Yiewsley, Hillingdon UB7 8HF. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: £4. Tel: 0208 368 4090. Web: www. hillingdonrailwaymodellers.co.uk

Apr 8-9

BEAMISH. The Beamish Great North Steam Fair Model Tramway Exhibition. **Time:** 1000-1700. **Admission:** Adult £18.50, Concession £13.50. **Web:** www.beamish.org.uk

CORSHAM, WILTS. Bentley MRG Trainwest 2017. Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham SN13 9DN. Time: Sat 1000-1730, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £8, Child £5. Tel: 01249 654417. Web: www.trainwest.org.uk

LITTLEBOROUGH, LANCS. Rochdale MRG MRE. Littleborough Coach House, Lodge St, Littleborough, Lancs OL15 9AE. Time: Sat 1000-1630, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £3. Tel: 07884 167613. Web: https://rochdalemrg.wordpress.com

NELSON, LANCS. Brierfield MRC MRE. St Luke's Church Hall, Brierfield, Nelson BB9 5JW. Time: 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £3.50, Child £2, Family £10. Tel: 07770 331348. Web: www.pfmrs.org.uk

Apr 9

CHICHESTER, SUSSEX. Chichester and District Society of Model Engineers 'Steam on Sunday' & MRE Open Afternoon. Blackberry Lane, off Bognor Road, Chichester PO19 7FS. Tel: 07954 051594.

Web: www.cdsme.co.uk

Apr 15

KIRRIEMUIR, SCOTLAND. Kirriemuir Vintage Railway Show. Guide Halls, Roods, Kirriemuir. Time: 1000-1600. Tel: 01575 574128.

Apr 15-17

GAINSBOROUGH, LINCS. Gainsborough MRS Open Day. **Time:** 1330-1800, Mon 1030-1800. **Admission:** Adult £4, Senior £3, Family £10. **Tel:** 01427 610475. **Web:** www.gainsboroughmodelrailway.co.uk

Apr 16-17

SWADLINCOTE, DERBYSHIRE. Gresley and Wychnor MRG. Gresley Social Centre, 5a Park St, Church Gresley DE11 9QE. Time: Sun 1000-1630, Mon 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £3, Child £1, Family £6.50.

WEXFORD, EIRE. Wexford MRC Easter Show. St Josephs Community Centre, Wexford. **Time:** Sun 1000-1800, Mon 1100-1700. **Admission:** Adult: £5, Child/Senior £2.50, Family £12.

Anr 22

CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE.

The Strettons Railway Society. Church Stretton School, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton SY6 6EX. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adult £4, Child £2, Concession £3.50. **Tel:** 01694 723370. **Web:** www.strettonsrailwaysociety.org.uk

LLANTWIT FARDRE, S. WALES.

Pontypridd MRC MRE. Llantwit Fardre Community Centre, Crown Hill, Llantwit Fardre CF38 2NA. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Tel:** 01443 217511.

MERSTHAM, SURREY. 7mm Narrow Gauge Association (Surrey Area Group). Merstham Village Hall, Station Approach North, Merstham RH1 3ED. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £5, Child £3, Family £10. E-mail: group.surrey@7mmnga.org.uk. Web: www.surrey.7mmnga.org.uk

NEWPORT, S. WALES. NEWGOG South Wales 'O' Gauge Show. Lysaght Institute, Orb Road, Newport NP19 ORA. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £6, Concession £5. Tel: 07896 967526. E-mail: driverlewis2004@yahoo.co.uk

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX. Chelmsford & District MRC. St Augustine Church, St Augustine Way, Springfield, Chelmsford CM1 6GX. Time: 1100-1630. Admission: Adult £3, Child £1. Tel: 01245 264028. Web: www.chelmsford-and-district-mrc. webs.com

STEYNING, SUSSEX. Wealden Railway Group Personal Layout Show. Coombe Court, The Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft, Steyning BN44 3XZ. **Time:** 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adult £3.50. **Tel:** 01903 879907.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTS.

De Havilland MRS MRE. Ludwick Way Methodist Church, Ludwick Way, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3PN. **Time:** 1000-1700. **Admission:** Adult £4, Child £2. **Tel:** 01707 267541.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS. N Gauge Society MRE. Sindlesham Baptist Church, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham RG41 5BB. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Admission:** £3. **Web:** www.bagladdies.weebly.com

Apr 22-2

BANGOR, N. IRELAND. North Downs MRS. Bangor Grammar School, Gransha Road, Bangor BT19 7QU. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1200-1700. Admission: Adult £5, Child £4, Family £15. **Tel:** 0289 1450833. **Web:** www.northdownmodel-railwaysociety

COTGRAVE, NOTTS. Bingham MRC South Notts MRS. Cotgrave Welfare, Woodview, Cotgrave NG12 3PJ. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Concession £4, Child £2, Family £10. E-mail: cirsel@btinternet.com Web: www.bingham-model-rail.co.uk

LIVERPOOL. Liverpool MRS MRE. Ian Robinson Sports Centre, Merchant Taylors School, Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 OQP. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Senior £4, Child £2, Family £12. Tel: 0151 5261574. Web: www.lmrs.orq.uk

EWELL, SURREY. Epsom & Ewell MRC - 'The Epsom Show'. North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell. KT17 3DS. **Time:** Sat 1000-1730, Sun 1000-1700. **Admission:** Adult £7. **Tel:** 01483 576274. **Web:** *www.eemrc.org.uk*

HELSTON, CORNWALL. Helston & Falmouth MRC MRE. Helston Community College, Church Hill, Helston TR13 8NR. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £5, Senior £4, Child £3, Family £12. Web: www.hfmrc.co.uk

HORSHAM, SURREY. Crawley MRS MRE. Tanbridge House School, Guildford Road, Horsham RH12 ISR. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £6, Child £4, Family £15. Web: www.crawleymrs.org.uk

MARYPORT, CUMBRIA. Maryport Model Club MRE. Netherhall School, Netherhall, Maryport CA15 6NT. Time: Sat 1000-1630, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £5, Child £2, Family £10. Tel: 01900 813661. E-mail: austin5@axln.co.uk

ROMFORD, ESSEX. Ilford and West Essex MRC West Essex Model Railway Club. St Edwards School, London Road, Romford RM7 9NX. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £6, Senior £5, Child £3, Family £14. Tel: 01708 442836. Web: www.iwemrc.org.uk

SUTTON COLDFIELD. Sutton Coldfield Railway Society MRE. Bishop Walsh School, Wylde Green Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QT. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Concession £4. Web: www.scrs.club

Apr 28-30

BISHOPS LYDEARD, SOMERSET. Taunton MRG MRE. Platform One, Bishops Lydeard station, West Somerset Railway. Time: 1030-1630. Tel: 01984 639509. Web: www.bathgreenpark.co.uk

Apr 29

COVENTRY. Coventry and Warwickshire O Gauge Modellers. The Church of the Holy Cross, St Austel Road, Wyken CV2 5EA. **Time:** 1000-1500. **Tel:** 02476 313221.

STOURPORT, WORCS. Wyre Forest MRC MRE. Stourport Community Centre, Lower Lickhill Road, Stourport-on-Severn DY13 8RW. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adult £2. **Tel:** 01902 843760. **Web:** *www.wyreforestmrc.com*

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HITCHIN, HERTS. Luton MRC O Gauge Section. Christchurch Hall, Bedford Road, Hitchin SG5 1HF. Time: 1030-1700. Admission: Adult £5, Child £2, Family £10. Tel: 01582 413200.

Web: www.lutonmodelrailwayclub.org.uk

RYE, SUSSEX. MRE. Milligan Theatre, Rye College, The Grove, Rye TN31 7NQ. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Child £2, Family £12. Tel: 07595 255150.

Anr 29-30

BRADFORD. Bradford MRC MRE. Sedbergh Community Centre, Huddersfield Road, Bradford BD6 1DJ. **Admission:** Adult/Concession £4.50, Child £1, Family £10. **Web:** www.bradfordmrc.org.uk

WOODGREEN, HANTS. MRE.

Woodgreen Village Hall, Woodgreen, nr Fordingbridge SP6 2AJ. **Time:** Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600.

Admission: Adult £2, Concession £1.50, Child 80p. **Tel:** 07125 511977. **E-mail:** *mbh977@btinternet.com*

Apr 30

BRIDPORT, DORSET. Bridport & District MRC MRE. The Salt House, West Bay, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4HD. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £1. Tel: 01308 863439. E-mail: douglas.beazer@btopenworld.com

BROXBOURNE, HERTS. Hoddesdon MRC MRE. Club Site, The Old Mill, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7AX. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £2, Child £1. Tel: 01707 898420. Web: www.hoddesdonmrc.org.uk

KEIGHLEY, YORKS. Keighley MRC Spring Open Day. Knowle Mills, South St, Keighley BD21 1SY. **Time:** Sun 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adult £3.50, Child £2.50. **Tel:** 07771 565617. **Web:** www.keighley-mrc.org.uk

SKELTON, CLEVELAND. Cleveland MRC MRE. Unit 2, The B-Hive, Skelton Industrial Estate, Skelton TS12 2LQ. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adult £1, Child 50p. **Tel:** 07864 880242. **Web:** *www.cmrc.club*

Apr 30-May 1

QUAINTON, BUCKS. Buckingham Railway Centre, Station Road, Quainton HP22 4BY. Time: Sun 0900-1700, Mon 0900-1600. Admission: Adult £11, Senior £10, Child £8, Family £32. Tel: 01296 655720. Web: www.bucksrailcentre.org

May:

EWELL, SURREY. Epsom & Ewell MRC Open Day. Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 OJG. **Time:** 1100-1700. **Tel:** 01483 576274. **Web:** www.eemrc.org.uk

May 6

BOGNOR REGIS, SUSSEX. 7mm Narrow Gauge Association (South Downs Group) 'ModelFest' Club, SWING. Felpham Community College, Bognor Regis PO22 8EL. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Members £4.50. Tel: 07970 556651. Web: www.swing.model-railway.org.uk

BUSHEY, HERTS. The South West Herts MRS MRE. Queen's School, Aldenham Road, Bushey WD23 2TY. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £6, Child £3. Tel: 07783 823457.

Web: www.southwesthertsmrs.org.uk

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX. Billericay MRG MRE. Galleywood Heritage Centre, Galleywood, Chelmsford CM3 8TR. **Time:** 1000-1700. **Admission:** Adult £5, Concession £4.50, Family £11. **Web:** www.billericaymrg.org.

DISS, NORFOLK. Rickinghall and Diss & District MRS. Rickinghall Village Hall, Hinderclay Road, Rickinghall IP22 1HD. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £5, Child £1. Tel: 07930 188472. Web: www.rickinghallvh.onesuffolk.net/events

HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND.

Hexham MRS. The Torch Centre, Corbridge Road, Hexham NE46 1QS. **Time:** 1000-1600. Adult £3, Child £1. **Tel:** 07919 368418.

HORSHAM, SURREY. Horsham MRC. St Leonards Church Hall, Cambridge Road, Horsham RH13 5ED. Time: 1000-1700. Admission: Adult £3.50, Child £2. Family £9. E-mail: secretary@horshammrc.org.uk Web: www.horshammrc.org.uk

READING, BERKS. Loddon Vale MRC MRE. Swallowfield Parish Hall, Swallowfield St, Swallowfield, Reading RG7 1QX. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2, Family £9. E-mail: loddonvalemrc1@gmail.com Web: www.lvmrc.co.uk

STAMFORD, LINCS. Stamford MRS. Stamford Welland Academy, Green Lane, Stamford PE9 1HE. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2, Family £10. Web: www.mdmrc.org

May 6-7

DERBY. Mickleover Model Railway Group. 'Derby MRE 2017'. The Roundhouse, Roundhouse Road, Pride Park Derby DE24 8JE. **Time:** Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adult £7. **Tel:** 07973 640746. **Web:** www.mmrg.org.uk

May 7 - Toylair/Swapmeet

NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON. Newton Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 3AF. Time: 1000-1530. Admission: £2. Tel: 01823 480097/07717 278420. E-mail: rayheard66@btinternet.com

May 13

HEYWOOD, LANCS. Heywood MRG MRE. Club Rooms. Unit 3, Park Works, River St, Heywood OL10 4AB. Time: 1000-1600. Web: www.hmrg.co.uk

LUTTERWORTH, LEICS. Lutterworth Railway Society MRE. The Wycliffe Rooms, George St, Lutterworth LE17 4ED. **Time:** 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adult £5, Child £2, Family £9. **Tel:** 01788 310354. **Web:** www. lutterworthrailwaysociety.co.uk

May 13-14

BRACKNELL, BERKS. ExpoEM Spring 2017. Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE. Time: Sat 1030-1730, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: £8, Child £2, Family £16, Member £6. Tel: 07806 093340. Web: www.emgs.org

GLENROTHES, FIFE. Glenrothes MRC MRE. Lomond Centre, Woodside Way, Glenrothes KY7 5RA. **Time:** Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1030-1630. **Admission:** Adult £4, Senior £3, Child £2, Family £11. **Tel:** 01334 475311.

SALISBURY. Salisbury & South Wilts Railway Society. Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 OJS. Time: 1030-1630. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2. Tel: 07768 448369. Web: www.sswrs.org.uk

SCUNTHORPE, LINCS. Scunthorpe Modern Image Railway Group MRE. St Pauls Church Hall, Ashby High Street, Scunthorpe, North Lincs DN16 2JR. Time: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £3.50, Concession £3, Child £2, Family £9. E-mail: peterfawcett125@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.smirg.co.uk

May 20

BENFLEET, ESSEX. St Mary's MRC MRE. St Mary's Church Hall, 376 High Road, Benfleet SS7 5HL. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £3. Tel: 01277 225206. E-mail: robinsnest.french@btinternet.com

BLOXWICH, W. MIDS. Bloxwich (St John's) MRC MRE. St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Ave, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 3HS. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2. Tel: 07970 390258. E-mail: bloxwichstjohnsmrc@orangehome.cc.uk

ELY, CAMBS. Ely & District MRC MRE. City of Ely Community College, Downham Road, Ely CB6 2SH. **Time:** 1030-1630. **Admission:** Adult £5, Child £3. **Tel:** 01480 454857. **Web:** *www.elymrc.org.uk*

MIRFIELD, YORKS. Mirfield West Yorkshire Team Parish Music Guild MRE. St Mary's Community Centre, Church Lane, Mirfield WF14 9HU. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adult £4, Child £2. Tel: 01924 495929. E-mail: Mrs Dransfield@htinternet.com

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT. Southborough Primary School, Broomhill Park Road, Southborough TN4 OJY. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Child £2, Family £12. Tel: 07595 255150.

May 26-2

BANGOR, CO. DOWN. First Bangor MRC MRE. First Bangor Presbyterian Church Halls, Upper Main Street, Bangor, Co. Down BT20 4AG. **Time:** Fri 1900-2130. Sat 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adult £5, Concession £3, Child £2, Family £10. **Tel:** 02891 457740.

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Class 1532 Johnson 1P 0-4-4T Pre-order for £111 (estimated)



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A3004 60072 "Sunstar" in BR Express blue with unstreamlined non-corridor tender
A3005 60035 "Windsor Lad" in BR green with early crest and unstreamlined non-corridor tender
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A4002 4468 "Mallard" in LNER Garter blue with streamlined non-corridor tender (1938 condition) A4003 4468 "Mallard" in LNER Garter blue with streamlined non-corridor tender (as preserved) A4004 4489 "Dominion of Canada" in LNER Garter blue with steel numbers/letters and unstreamlined corridor tender A4005 4464 "Bitterm" in LNER Garter blue with streamlined corridor tender

A4006 60007 "Sir Nigel Gresley" in BR express blue with unstreamlined corridor tender A4007 60012 "Commonwealth of Australia" in BR green

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TC11505 Diag. 115 Corridor Third in BR maroon
TC11506 Diag. 115 Corridor Third in BR maroon
TC11506 Diag. 175 Brake Corridor Comp. in LNER Teak
TC17502 Diag. 175 Brake Corridor Comp. in LNER Teak
TC17503 Diag. 175 Brake Corridor Comp. in BR carmine 9
cream

TC17504 Diag. 175 Brake Corridor Comp. in BR carmine & cream
TC17505 Diag. 175 Brake Corridor Comp. in BR maroon

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AND THE PARTY OF T	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
Stanier Mogul 2-6-0	hattons.co.uk/5p4f	£135.96	Mar 2013							
Class 450	hattons.co.uk/cl450	from £271.96	Mar 2015							
LNWR Webb coal tank 0-6-2T	hattons.co.uk/wct	£101.96	Sep 2014							
SECR Birdcage Coaches	hattons.co.uk/bc	£55.21	Mar 2014							
Class H2 Atlantic 4-4-2	hattons.co.uk/h2atlantic	£152.96	Mar 2013							
Warflat Bogie Flat wagon	hattons.co.uk/warflat	£42.46	Mar 2013							
Baldwin Class 10-12-D 4-6-0	hattons.co.uk/baldwin460	£123.21	Jul 2014							

dapol	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
Class 68	hattons.co.uk/c68	£123.72	April 2014							
Class 121/122	hattons.co.uk/dapolbubble	£123.25	Dec 2012							
GWR Streamlined Rallcar	hattons.co.uk/gwrrc	from £119.43	Jul 2014							

DJ	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
Class 14xx 0-4-2T	hattons.co.uk/14xx	£99	Sep 2014							
Golden Arrow Class 71s	hattons.co.uk/goldenarrow	£139.95	Jun 2016							
Class 6000 King 4-6-0	hattons.co.uk/king	ТВА	Aug 2014							

ELIA	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
Class 1366 0-6-0PT	hattons.co.uk/1361	£124	Nov 2013							
Class 47xx 'Night Owl' 2-8-0	hattons.co.uk/47xx	£154	Nov 2014							
Class 07 Shunter	hattons.co.uk/cl07	£99 (EST)	Jan 2016							
Hatton's O Gauge Class A3/A4	hattons.co.uk/recordbreakers	£750	Aug 2016							

(HORNBY)	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
W4 Peckett 0-4-0ST	hattons.co.uk/peckett	£81	Oct 2015							
Merchant Navy 4-6-2	hattons.co.uk/mn	from £153	Mar 2015							
Mk1 FO & BSO	hattons.co.uk/hornbymk1	£31.50	Oct 2016							
Class H Wainwright 0-4-4T	hattons.co.uk/hclass	from £90	Sep 2016							
Class 8P Princess Coronation 4-6-2	hattons.co.uk/duchess	from £171	Nov 2016							
HItachi IEP Class 800	hattons.co.uk/IEP800	from £229.50	Nov 2016							

	Link	Price	Date announced	CAD done	In Tooling	Seen 1st EP	Decorated samples	In production	On Board Ship	Released
Class 2301 Dean Goods 0-6-0	hattons.co.uk/oxdg	£95	Jan 2016							
YEC Janus 0-6-0 Shunter	hattons.co.uk/janus	£74	Nov 2015							
60' Carflat Car Carrying Wagon	hattons.co.uk/oxcarflat	£25	May 2016							
Mk3 Coaches	hattons.co.uk/oxmk3	£29	Jan 2016							

Shows the stage the project is at based on the information available to us. CAD: Computer Aided Design. 1st EP: First Engineering Prototype. TBC: Price is yet To Be Confirmed (EST): Price is estimated.



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. . £123.21



32-176 Class 5MT Crab 2-6-0 42765 in BR lined black £123.21 early emblem (Bac).....



31-690 Class 5P4F Stanier Mogul 2-6-0 2965 in LMS lined



31-691 Class 5P4F Stanler Mogul 2-6-0 42969 in BR line



R3409 Class 6000 King 4-6-0 6002 "King William IV" In BR Green late crest (Hor) (list £181.99) ...BARGAIN...£109



31-638 Class 64xx 0-6-0PT pannier tank 6419 in BR lined green late crest - weathered (Bac) £90.05



31-635A Class 64xx 0-6-0PT pannier tank 6424 in GWR



R3420 Class 700 0-6-0 30346 in BR Black late crest (Hor)



R3468 Class 7P6F Rebuilt Battle of Britain 4-6-2 34077 "603 Squadron" in BR Lined Green late crest (Hor).....£144.50 31-318A Class J11 0-6-0 5954 in LNER black (Bac) NEW £127.45



R3288 Class 9F 2-10-0 92220 "Evening Star" in BR Green late crest (Hor) ...£89



R3086 Class A1 4-6-2 4472 "Flying Scotsman" in LNER apple green - Rallroad Range (Hor) (list £94.99)BARGAIN £55



R3284TTS Class A1 4-6-2 4472 "Flying Scotsman" in LNER G ITS Sound - Raliroad range (Hor) (list £119.99) BARGAIN.....



R3060 Class A1 4-6-2 60163 "Tornado" in British Railways
Apple Green (Railroad Range) (Hor) (list £99.99)BARGAIN ...£82
32-561 Cass A1 60122 4-62 "Durke" Bit express blue early entbern (Rad) ...£182.99
OU.94-005 Class J94 Austerity 0-6-0ST 68068 in 'British Condition - Lid Ed of 500 (Hor) (list £135) ...BARGAIN £115





R3312 Class A3 4-6-2 60062 "Minoru" in BR Green early emblem (Hor) (list £154.99) BARGAIN.



R3395TTS Class A4 4-6-2 4468 "Mallard" In LNER Garter Blue-sound fitted - Railroad Range (Hor) (list £132.99)BARGAIN



R3285TTS Class A4 4-6-2 4469 "Gadwall" in LNER Garter E TTS Sound - Railroad range (Hor) (list 299.99)3ARGAIN ... R3388 Cass B1 4-6-0 61310 BR Apple Green (Hor) (list 155.59)3ARGAIN ...



R3432 Class B12/3 4-6-0 61580 in BR black late crest (Hor) £136 R3430 Class B12/3 4-6-0 8573 in LNER apple green (Hor). £136
R3447 Class B17 4-6-0 2842 "Kilverstone Hall" in LNER Lined Apple
Green (Hor) (list £159.99). BARGAIN ss B17 4-6-0 61631 "Seriby Hail" in BR Green early emble £79



R3318 Class B17/6 4-6-0 61646 "Gliwell Park" in BR Green early emblem (Hor) (list £131.99)BARGAIN £74



R3495 Class D49/1 4-4-0 62760 "The Cotswold" in BR early crest - Railroad Range (Hor)







31-321 DS Class J11 0-6-0 64377 In BR black early early £203.96





OOJ94-002 Class J94 Austerity 0-6-0ST 68061 in 'Brit Rallways' black original bunker (DJ)









J9404 Austerity 0-6-0ST 1783 in NCB Peckfield Colliery lined marcon chevrons - very heavily weathered - Ltd Ed of 200 (CU) 208 R3282 Class 0F Pug 0-4-0ST 56011 in BR back - Hornby 2014 Celectors Cub special edition (Hord)



31-933 Class 1000 Midland Compound 4-4-0 41157 in BR lined black late crest (Bac) (list £139.95)BARGAIN. . . £79 1304 Class 1361 0-6-0ST 1363 in BR black late crest (He) £124



1301 Class 1361 0-6-0ST 1363 in GWR green shirtbutton



1302 Class 1361 0-6-0ST 1364 in GWR green (Hel) . . .£124



1303 Class 1361 0-6-0ST 1365 in BR black early emblem (Hel). £124 1320 Class 1366 0-6-0PT 1366 in GWR green shiributton (Hel)....£124



1323 Class 1366 0-6-0I T 1367 in BR black early emblem (Hel). £124





1321 Class 1366 0-6-0PT 1369 in Great Western green



1322 Class 1366 0-6-0PT 1370 in GWR green (Hel)...£124



H1416 Class 14xx 0-4-2T 1409 in BR Unlined green late£99



H1409 Class 14xx 0-4-2T 1470 in BR Lined black early emblem (DJ). £99 31-433 Class 1F 'Half-Cab' 0-6-0T 1739 in LMS black (Bac). £81.56



31-440 Class 2MT Ivatt 2-6-2T 41243 in BR lined black early emblem (Bac). £11£110.46



R3459TTS Class 2P Fowler 4-4-0 40626 In BR Black early emblem - TTS sound fitted (Hor) (list £154,99)BARGAIN £105 31-127 Class 30xx 2-8-0 ROD 3023 in BR black early emblem (Bac)



R3277 Class 38xx 44-0 "County Of Devon" in Great Western Railway green - Railroad range (Hor) (list £89.99)BARGAIN . . . £80 32-2278 Class 3F Fower Jinty 0-8-0 tank 7341 in LMS black (Bac) £72.21 8334 Class 415 Adams Radial 4-4-2T 30582 in BR black late crest (Hor) (ist £119.99) . BARGAIN £82



R3333 Class 415 Adams Radial 4-4-2T 30584 in BR black early emblem (Hor) (ilst £119.99) ... BARGAIN ... £8: R3462 Cass 42xx 2-8-0 4287 BR Black early emblem (Hor) (ist £139.99) ... £8



32-131 Class 45xx 2-6-2 Prairie tank 4539 in Great Western green (Bac)......£84.96



R3499 Class 49xx 4-6-0 6947 "Helmingham Hall" in BR





R3460TTS Class 4F 0-6-0 44198 in BR Black late cre £100



R3314 Class 4F 0-6-0 44341 in BR Black early crest (Hor)



32-881 Class 4MT Fairburn 2-6-4 tank 42105 BR lined black early emblem - weathered. (Bac) £110.46 32-580A Class 4MT lvatt 2-6-0 43014 BR black late crest - weathered (Bac) . . . £127,46



R3276 Class 4P Compound 4-4-0 1072 in LMS Black Fowler tender - Railroad range (Hor) (list £84.99) BARGAIN. 25 31-170 Class 5 JAPR 2-47 5050-8 BRITISH RAILWAYS Ined back (Bac) 503.45 R3463 Class 52xx 2-8-0 5231 BR Black early embern (Hor) 618 (1919-91) 6



H1402 Class 58xx 0-4-2T 5814 In GWR Unlined green







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

R3461 Class L1 Thompson 2-6-4T 67702 in LNER apple green BR number (Hor) (list £154.99)..BARGAIN....£89

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R9292 Thomas and Frien engine (Hor) (list £98.99)

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blue (Hor) NE 32-115B Class 08





R3484 Class 08 shunter 13363 in BR green red con rods (Hor) NEW. .£118





2660 Class 26/0 diesel D5300 in BR green semi gloss finish (Hei) (list £119.95)BARGAIN....



.261



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2665 Class 26/0 diesel D5312 in BR green -BARGAIN. athered (HeI) (Ilst £129.95) 665



panels (Hel) (list £119.95). . 3416 Class 33/0 D6551 in BR gree all yellow panels (Hel) £94 een velow warning panels (Hel) £101



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32-785DS Class 37/0 37254 in BR Departmental Civil Link Dutch Livery (Weathered & DCC Sound Fitted) (Bac) £203.96



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32-390 Class 37/7 37706 'Conidae' in Railfreight stroleum (Bac). -391DS Class 37/7 37796 Railfreight coal sector (DOC Sound Fitted) (B £101.96



R3392TTS Class 40 40164 in BR blu Raliroad Range (Hor) (list £99.99). .



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32-533 Class 55 Deltic D9001 'St. Paddy' in BR green full wallow ends - weathered (Bac) . . . £135.96



R3497 Class 55 Deltic D9016 in BR green - Railroa



32-764 Class 57/3 57305 "Northern Princess" in DRS



32-762DS Class 57/3 57312 'The Hood' in Virgin Trains Livery (Weathered & DCC Sound Fitted) (Bac) . . . £203.96



32-756 Class 57/6 57603 "Tintagel Castle" in GWR (2015) green (Bac) £131.71



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30-049 The Permanent Way DCC train set Digital





R4739 Pullman Third Class Parlour Car 'Car No.34' In

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n Car (Hor)

39-530 SR PMV parcels van S1151S in BR green black



mpson non-corridor brake third 87019 in LNER teak (Hor) NEW. R4572A Thompson non-comid







1150 4-whee lettering (HeI) NEW 1150 Pack of 4 (HeI) (list £99.80) NE 1151 4-wheel A tank 4021 Esso grey Es 1151 Pack of 4 (HeI) (list £99.80) NE €20.50



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R6783 BR 20 Ton Coke Hopper Wagons - Three Wagon Pack (Hor) £49.49



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32-991 Type 27 Wickham Trolley and trailer B30W in BR Maroon (Bac). £67.96



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6108



DMUs

32-290DS Class 101 2 car DMU in Netw ork South East with passenger figures and DCC sound (Bac) ... £229.46



31-535 Class 105 Cravens 2 Car DMU in BR blue full yellow ends (Power Twin Unit) (Bac)



(list £119.95) BARGAIN 8922 Class 128 DPU W55992 in BR blue yellow ends & no branding 'Scooby Doo' - weathered (Hel) (list £129.95) BARGAIN R3477 Class 153 153321 in Regional Railways (Hor)



R3340 Class 2-HAL 2 Car EMU 2603 in BR green full yellow ends (Hor) (list £130.25) £62



R3341A Class 2-HAL 2623 2 car EMU in BR blue (Hor) N. . . .£62



31-030 Class 350/1 Desiro 4 Car EMU 350 111 "Apolio" in Silver Link (unbranded) (Bac) (list £189.95)BAR AIN £89.50



R3215 Class 373 Eurostar 4 car EMI Eurostar (Hor) (list £169.99)



31-266 Class 419 Motor Luggage Van (MLV) in BR Southern Region green yellow panel (Bac) (Ilst £104.95)BARGAIN. £6/ Track Maintenance vehicles



orised OO Track Cleaner motorised & wacuum in blue (Dap).....





R1151 Cale





R9283 Thomas the Tank Engine starter Train Set (Hor) Train sets - DCC



R1172 e-Link Majestic trair Evnerimental blue & BR C



R1126 Mixed Freight DCC digital train set Class 08 0-6-0 BR diesel electric loco, steam loco & 4 wagons (Hor) £165





R1184 Western Express digital train set eLink TTS sound Hall steam loco (Hor) (list £329.99)....BARGAIN....£198

Coaches	
39-576 BR Hawskworth Auto Trailer Maroon (Bac)	258.6
39-200C BR Mk1 Super BG Full Brake RES · Weathered (Bac) (list £39.95) BARGAIN	F16
(est 2.09.90)	LIC



R4235C ex-LMS Stanier P3 third class M1741M in BR ed suburban brake third 3738 LNER teak (Hor)£4



chocolate & cream - as preserved (Bac) £59.46



39-578 Hawksworth Auto-trailer in W234W in BR crimson 39-376 nawsworth Auto-trailer III W234W II BR CHINSON \$\frac{\text{Esq. 4}}{\text{R469}}\$ K-Type Pullman Third Class brake 'Car No.78' (Hor). ... £44 4865 K-Type Pullman Third Class Parlow Farke Car Car No.80' (Hor) ... £44 39-475A LMS 60' Porthole first open M748' IM in BR crimson & cream



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39-273 Mk1 GUV General Utility Van S86724 in BR



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39-056A Mk1 TSO tourist second open 4854 in Regional W . .£46.71 brake second open M9495 in BR blue & grey -99) BARGAIN £19 ing van trailer 82146 in DB Schenker silver (Hor) BARGAIN £26



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39-003 Pack of two Mk1 coaches in BR blue & grey Network SouthEast branding and passenger figures (Bac) NEW . £89 W . . £89.21



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...£75 weedkiller train (Hel) NEW
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SL-90 Double slip insulfrog (Pec)..... £31 SL-E89 Left hand large point electrofrog (P SL-89 Left hand large point insulfrog (Pec)

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Country Station also available in 00: PO237 - £13.75

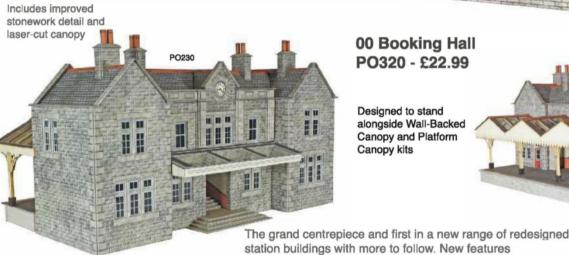


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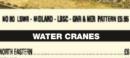


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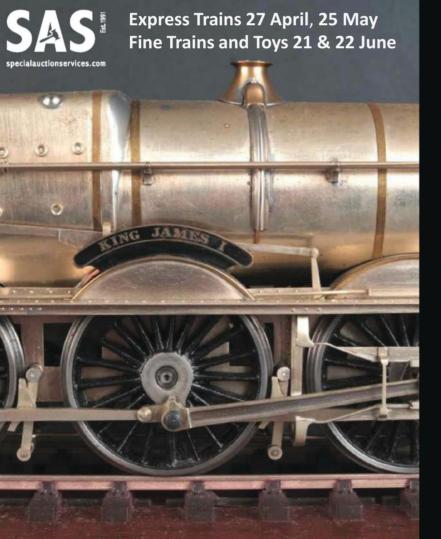
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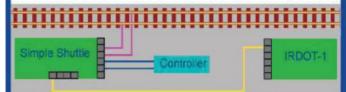
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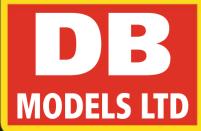
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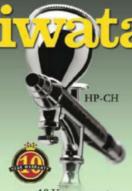
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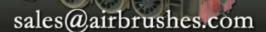
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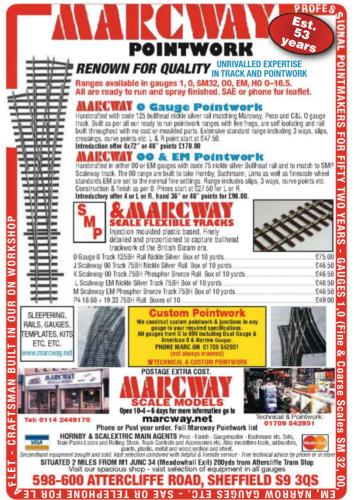








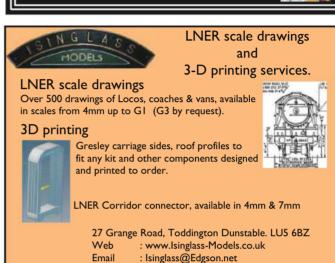








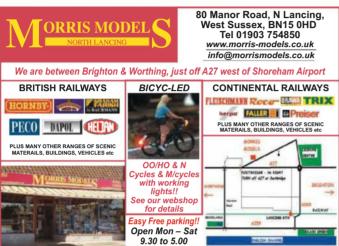




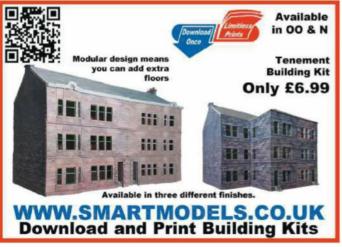
















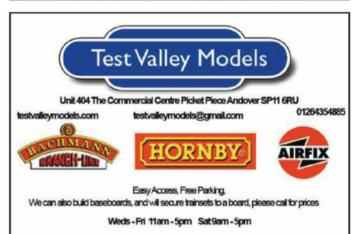
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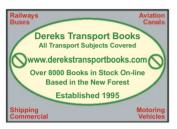


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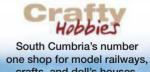


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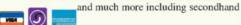
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Going back* (with apologies to The Byrds)

I've never been a fan of going back to places I knew in my youth. I usually find that they've changed beyond recognition or they just aren't how I remember them. I'm particularly fearful of going back to old railway haunts on the GWR, and I'm deliberately avoiding the rebuilt Reading General station, as I know I won't recognise it.

However, I recently had an evening appointment in Swindon, and I decided to visit a couple of stations on the way. When the day came, the weather was gloomy, so I limited myself to just one stop, at Kings Sutton, near Banbury.

The first time I went there was in August 1965, on a Gloucester Cross-Country (Class 119) DMU from Oxford. Its station buildings were a more elaborate version of the Banbury & Cheltenham Direct Railway's design the same basic shape and style but with lots more stonework to give it a mock Elizabethan look. Kings Sutton was listed for closure in the Beeching report, but by the time of my original visit, it had been reduced to an unstaffed halt, presumably because total closure and replacement by bus services was impractical. Take a drive through the village and you can still see why

Today, Kings Sutton is served by GWR and Chiltern Trains, and the line remains busy with through-express services and freight, including container trains and trains of cars for export from the Midlands to the south coast. There's no trace of its handsome Up-side station building, but the original shelter on the Down platform survives, the last B&CDR building in existence. The lattice GWR footbridge was replaced by a foot crossing with warning lights, and more recently by a modern footbridge. The visit wasn't

quite as disappointing as I'd expected. The character has changed a little because more trees have grown, but doing a bit of careful investigation can be fun. I found the torched-off base of the footbridge and noticed the remains of the row of Scots Pines that so often mark a GWR station approach. A nearby house has one of the station lamps, complete with a name-sign.

On that original visit
I had seen plenty of steam, including
a 'WD' 2-8-0 which clanked through the
station running light engine to Banbury,
and I remember watching lizards
scampering about on some old iron
fixing plates which had been warmed
by the sun. The place is still
recognisable but I struggled to cast my
mind back to how it was. It did prompt
me to go out again the next day and
look at some other GWR stations on the
Cotswold line, and in the Thames Valley.
More of that another time, perhaps.

These small wayside GWR stations have always fascinated me and I've been tempted to model one -perhaps. Handborough, Aynho or Kings Sutton. However, wayside stations on main lines take up a lot of space. Tony Wright's superb 'Little Bytham' is a case in point. A small, almost insignificant, wayside station on the ECML, yet to do it justice requires a purpose-built structure to house it. Perhaps I should send Paul Lunn a couple of real track plans of places that interest me, and see what the 'Master of Compression' can do with them...



Above: A Gloucester three-car Cross-Country unit (later Class 119) starts away from the Down platform at Kings Sutton, bound for Banbury on an August day in 1965. CHRIS LEIGH

Below: A similar viewpoint in 2017, as a GWR Class 166 arrives. The fine old brick station has long given way to a clutter of modern station details. The Down side shelter is original, but its stonework has been obliterated by blue paint. CHRIS LEIGH



* The lyric of Goffin and King's Going Back, as recorded by The Byrds, is a reflection on the passing of childhood and includes the lyric 'No more electric trains'. It was changed to a more feminine subject in Dusty Springfield's cover version.

Preserved at Bideford

Following up on my recent comments about my lost Bideford Westward Ho! and Appledore 2-4-2T model, Alan Wilkinson wrote to remind me that this year marks the centenary of the closure of the BWHAR, which was requisitioned for the war effort in 1917. He also pointed out that a unique survivor, the SS *Freshspring*, a 1946-built Royal Navy water tender, is under restoration at Bideford.

Peter Lewis of Ivybridge sent me this photo of his lovely 'O' gauge Hunslet 2-4-2T, based on the BWHAR locomotives. It's built from plastic, wood, brass and stainless steel, and it runs on an Atlas mechanism. It's named *Westward Ho* and carries a pair of 'OO' Bulleid nameplates.



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Model Rail magazine is published 13 times per year by Bauer Consumer Media Limited, registered in England and Wales with company number 01176085, registered address Media House, Peterborough Business Part, Uynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6EA, VAT no. 918 5617 01.

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Warwick and Warwick have an expanding requirement for early to modern collections of British and Foreign trains and train sets from large accumulations to items of individual value. Our customer base is increasing dramatically and we need an ever larger supply of quality material to keep pace with demand. The market has never been stronger and if you are considering the sale of your collection,





FREE VALUATIONS - We will provide a free, professional valuation of your collection, without obligation on your part to proceed. Either we will make you a fair, binding private treaty offer, or we will recommend inclusion of your property in our next public auction.

now is the time to act.

FREE TRANSPORTATION - We can arrange insured transportation of your collection to our Warwick offices completely free of charge. If you decline our offer, we ask you to cover the return carriage costs only.

FREE VISITS - Visits by our valuers are possible anywhere in the country or abroad, usually within 48 hours, in order to value larger collections. Please phone for details.

ADVISORY DAY TOWNS - We are staging a series of advisory days and will be visiting the following towns within the next few weeks: Tavistock, Tiverton, Brighton, Maidenhead, Folkestone, Wimbledon, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, North Shields, York, Lancaster, Bolton, Hereford, Harlow, Cambridge, Pembroke, Swansea and Amersham.

Please visit our website or telephone for further details.

EXCELLENT PRICES - Because of the strength of our customer base we are in a position to offer prices that we feel sure will exceed your expectations.

ACT NOW - Telephone or email Richard Beale today with details of your property



Get the experts on your side!



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GAUGEMASTER Spotlight

Analogue Control



Lifetime Guarantee & Controller Types

Choose Your Controller for Life...

We have been producing Model Railway Controllers for 40 years. Our analogue controllers have stood the test of time, and so has our lifetime guarantee:

"We undertake to replace, free of charge, any parts found defective within the lifetime of the unit providing that the item has not been tampered with."

What's the difference between the controller types?

Our Mains Powered Cased Controllers come complete with transformer, and can just be plugged in, connected to the track, and away you go. Panel Mounted Controllers require a separate transformer, and also need to be mounted onto a control panel to be used effectively.

We also produce various controllers with **Feedback** and **Simulation**, two effects controlled by the controller itself. **Feedback** senses the load on the circuit and helps maintain the locomotive at a steady speed up and down gradients. **Feedback** controllers are not suitable for use with locomotives with coreless motors. **Simulation** (also known as Inertia) allows a train to accelerate, coast, and be braked to a standstill, by use of a regulator and a brake.

Mains Powered Cased Controllers



GMC-COMBI Single Track Controller/Transformer Most Suited for HO/OO/N Scale Layouts

Fantastic for small layouts or beginners upgrading a starter set, the Combi has both a 12V DC output to run one track, and a 16V AC output for accessories.





GMC-D Twin Track Controller

Most Suited to HO/OO/N Scale Layouts

Our best selling controller. Runs a two track railway with minimum of fuss. The D Controller has two 12V DC track outputs, as well as a 16V AC output for accessories.





GMC-Q Four Track Controller

Most Suited to OO/HO/N Scale Layouts

The best selling four track mains powered controller available today. It offers impressive value for money with its four 12V DC track outputs, and two each of 16V AC and 12V DC outputs for accessories.

BEST FOR Four Tracks

Panel Mounted Controllers



GMC-100 Single Track Panel Controller Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts

Some experienced modellers may wish to incorporate their controller into a panel they have made to control their layout. The Model 100 Controller has a single 12V DC output.





GMC-U Single Track Controller with Simulation Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts

With the brake knob controlling the 12V DC track output, this controller allows you greater realism when running locomotives.



Hand Held Controllers



GMC-W Single Track Walkabout Single Track Controller Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts

Fitted with 1.5m of cable, this controller allows you the freedom to move around your layout while still controlling your layout. it has a single 12V DC track output.



PRICES

Full details of our Analogue Controller range can be found in the Gaugemaster Full Catalogue.

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

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

GM353 Gaugemaster Full Catalogue GM356 Gaugemaster 2016 New Items Leaflet £3.95 FREE

Cased Controllers

GMC-COMBI	Single Track Controller/Transformer	£39.95
GMC-100M	Single Track Controller	£84.95
GMC-100MO	Single Track Controller for O'Scale	€84.95
GMC-10LGB	Single Track Controller for G Scale	£99.95
GMC-10LGB5F	Single Track Controller for G Scale with Fan	£169.95
GMC-P	Single Track Controller with Simulation	£99.95
GMC-D	Twin Track Controller	£99.95
GMC-DS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation	£169.95
GMC-TS	Three Track Controller with Simulation	£174.95
GMC-Q	Four Track Controller	£179.95

Panel Mounted Controllers (Orange text shows transformer required)

GMC-100	Single Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1)	£34.9
GMC-100.0	Single Track Controller for O Scale (GMC-T2/M2)	£44.9
GMC-U	Single Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£44.9
GMC-UF	Single Track Controller with Feedback (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£39.9
GMC-UO	Single Track Controller with Simulation for O (GMC-T2/M2)	£59.9
GMC-UD	Twin Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£54.9
GMC-UDF	Twin Track Controller with Feedback (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£59.9
GMC-UDS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£69.9
GMC-UTS	Three Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£79.9
GMC-UQ	Four Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£84.5

Walkabout and Hand Held Controllers (All GMC-T1/M1/WM1)

GMC-W	Single Track Walkabout Controller	£39.95
SMC-WS	Single Track Walkabout Controller with Simulation	£59.95
BMC-HH	Single Track Handheld Controller with Feedback	£39.95
Transform	ers	

GMC-M1	Cased Transformer 16V AC	£49.95
GMC-M2	Cased Transformer 18V AC 2.5V	£54.95
SMC-M3	Cased Transformer 24V AC	£54.95
SMC-M4	Cased Transformer 12V AC	£54.95
SMC-T1	Open Transformer 2x 16V AC 1a	£24.95
GMC-T2	Open Transformer 18V AC 2.5a	£24.95
GMC-T3	Open Transformer 24V AC	£24.95
GMC-T4	Open Transformer 2x 12V AC 1a	£24.95
GMC-WM1	Wall Mounted Transformer 16V or 12V DC 1.1a	£19.95
GMC-WM2	Wall Mounted Transformer 9v DC (1600mA) 1.6A	£14.95

Did you know...

if you don't have a handy accessory output from a controller, the GMC-WM1 Wall Mounted Transformer can be used on its own to power accessories such as point motors and lights from the 16V output. Just plug it in and connect it up! You can also use our GMC-WM2 to power the Gaugemaster Lighting range.