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ACCURASCALE HYA/IIA HOPPERS

BACHMANN 'VANWIDE'

DOWN THE TUBE1938 Underground

stock in focus prototype & model "WE'LL RUN IT OURSELVES!" Building Titfield station in 'OO'

'Greyhound'

Preview of Accurascale's

game-changing 'Deltic'

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- Class 68 Fearless 68016 DRS Compass
- Class 68 Vigilant 58018 DRS Compass
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This month's cover image



An Accurascale 'Deltic' roars along the East Coast Main Line. For the full story behind this month's special anniversary cover, see page 20. CHRIS NEVARD

Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 300th issue of *Model Rail*. It marks an important milestone for the magazine and the MR team, especially our consultant editor Chris Leigh, who has been here since the very beginning.

We've marked the occasion with a special section in the centre of the magazine, where you can read about how Model Rail came into being and browse our history via a collection of all 299 previous covers. Looking back through our archive has been a fascinating experience, revealing just how much our hobby has changed, in some respects at least. In other ways, it has remained reassuringly familiar.

On pages 6-7 we present reportage of the recent exhibition of Britain's Biggest Model Railway (BBMR), held near Shepton Mallett just before Easter. Seeing 'Heaton Lodge Junction' in the flesh for the first time is an unforgettable experience and it was a pleasure to meet the man behind the venture, Simon George, especially after he credited my various books and articles on weathering as an inspiration. It's always heartening to hear how we have helped modellers along the way – such feedback keeps us energised and eager to help further.

I made the most of my trip to the South West, spending a few days travelling around Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Somerset on a Freedom of the Severn & Solent rail rover. A circular Salisbury-Southampton-Weymouth-Castle Cary-Westbury-Salisbury tour was a highlight. Alas, I only got to see a single Class 59 at Westbury, but at least it was one I hadn't seen before. I was also lucky to see a

www.twitter.com/modelrailuk www.instagram.com/modelrailmag





It was great to meet lots of Model Rail readers at the BBMR show, including owners of layouts that we've recently featured. One such person was Neil Woodbine (centre), whose 'Farbine Road' layout appeared in MR298. It was also good to catch up with Mr Nevard for the first time in a few years!

few of the cut-down HHA hoppers in use with Freightliner. Formerly employed for power station coal traffic, they now carry aggregates. A similar cut-and-shut wagon has just been released by Accurascale - read the review on page 104. Happy modelling!

George Dent Editor

Meet the team behind the UK's best modelling magazine

Chris Leigh Active in the hobby since his teens - he can claim to be experienced!



Chris Gadsby Our DCC specialist starts a new layout every year!

This month's contributors











Model Rail essential information

Q: Looking for an old feature but can't remember which issue it was in?

A: Check out the online index, kindly provided by UK Model Shops, at www.ukmodelshops.co.uk/ ModelRail

Q: Want to order one of our exclusive models?

A: Go to www.modelrailoffers.co.uk or call 01209 705459.

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A: Go to www.greatmagazines.co.uk or call 01858 438884.

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A: Visit www.greatmagazines.co.uk/faq

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A: Call our Subscriptions Department on 01858 438884.

Contents June

Cover Stories

- 8 Preview of Accurascale's 'Deltic'
- 38 1938 Underground stock in focus
- 50 Tweaks for a Southern 'Greyhound'
- 62 Building Titfield station in 'OO'
- 68 Create an unusual bufferstop

Opening the box

News

The latest news in railway modelling, direct from the manufacturers.

Competition

Your chance to win one of 11 great prizes in our celebratory competition.

Staff Show and Tell
George takes you behind the scenes to explain how our 300th cover was made.

Show & Tell
The place to share your projects with the Model Rail community.

Inside Track
Ben Ando details how an idea can go from a suggestion to the RevolutioN range!

Inspiration

Layout: Nottingborough
Steve Povey spent a long time planning this stunning layout and overcoming challenges.

Masterclass: 1938 Tube stock
David Jukes recounts the stock's history,
from experimental prototypes to modern day.

Taking advantage of lots of spare time,
Chris Sykes indulged his love for BR blue diesels.

Masterplan: Design history
Paul A. Lunn looks at how layout planning
and design has changed over the years.



Regulars

- 3 Contact *Model Rail*
- **18** Exhibition Diary
- **26** Subscribe to *Model Rail*
- 110 Next Issue
- **145** Present Your Case
- **146** Backscene

4





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see p26

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Know Your Stuff

- **68** Create an unusual bufferstop
- **69** Improve PCA tanks
- **70** Know Your Liveries BR Midland
- **72** Dave Lowery's Top Tips
- **73** Build simple low-relief buildings



Workbench



Weather a brake van
Chris Nevard reveals how simple
ingredients can make for great weathering.

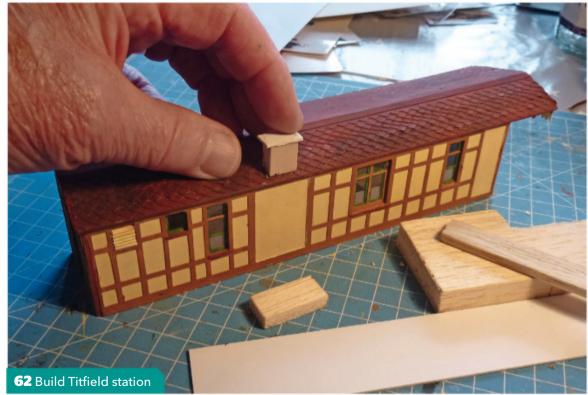
Parkside kit tested
George Dent trials the first new
Parkside kit since Peco's acquisition.

Build Titfield stationChris Leigh begins a new modelling project in readiness for some new models.











Opening the box

The latest happenings from the world of model railways

'HEATON LODGE JUNCTION' STARS AT THE ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND

George Dent reports from the mammoth 'O' gauge layout's first show outside Yorkshire.

ver a three-day
weekend, April 8-10,
the Royal Bath &
West Showground,
near Shepton Mallett, played
host to 'Heaton Lodge Junction',
the extraordinary 'O' gauge
layout billed as Britain's
Biggest Model Railway. This
was only the layout's second
public outing, following a
week-long stint in Wakefield
town centre in early December.

At around 200ft long and 50ft wide, 'Heaton Lodge Junction' certainly is substantial, and the logistics of moving the layout and the huge amount of rolling stock down to Somerset was no small undertaking. I made my visit on the Friday and was greeted by a very healthy number of visitors already in the hall, enthralled by the constant procession of scale-length trains passing along the scenic section. Plenty of coverage in the national and local press was clearly paying dividends. Aside from a few teething problems during the initial set-up (owing to a disturbed power cable, apparently), the layout was running well on this first day of the show.

Based on a real location, where the Calder Valley and Standedge trans-Pennine routes converge near Mirfield, it captures the bleak landscape perfectly. Set firmly in the diesel era, a lovely array of classic traction was employed on the passenger and freight services, along with the odd preserved steam special.

The man behind this incredible layout, Simon George (above), was on hand to chat about his endeavour and it was exciting to see how the scenic area of the layout is set to



expand, with a station and motive power depot either side of the extensive, 100ft long marshalling yard. Funnily enough, the non-scenic marshalling area was also available for viewing and attracted plenty of interested viewers throughout the day.

As things quietened down late in the afternoon, I was glad I'd hung around as the sound-fitted locomotives could be heard more effectively and, with the crowds dissipated, it allowed for closer inspection of the layout. While I've never been to the location on foot, I've passed through countless times over the past 30-odd years. Although the real track layout was significantly rationalised in later BR days, it is still recognisable. Indeed, the iron footbridge





CK BOSKE

Model Rail 300 June 2022



which forms a key scenic feature of the layout - which must have been a great vantage point for trainspotters - still stands today.

Being a fellow northerner and of a similar age, I can relate to Simon's urge to capture the barren landscape and semiderelict buildings that conjure up the grim days of the late 1970s and 1980s. Standing further back from the layout really does give the impression of being in the real landscape, watching the signal aspects change and catching sight of an approaching train in the distance. Only very rarely do we get to see model trains traversing such long, uninterrupted stretches of miniature scenery - and this proved to be a rare treat indeed!

While 'Heaton Lodge Junction' might have been the main attraction, a good number of other layouts were also in attendance, some with a local flavour, such as 'Evercreech' and 'Bournemouth West' - the latter featuring a very impressive smoke-effect system within the 4mm scale steam locomotives.

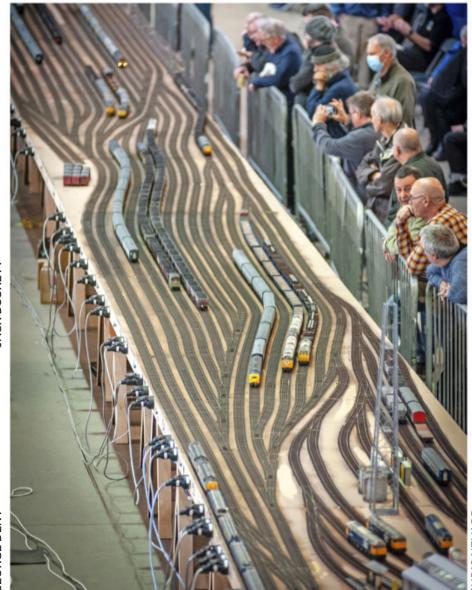
Trade support was also

healthy, with Heljan, Peco, Bachmann Europe, Revolution Trains, Absolute Aspects and Tim Horn Baseboards just some of the attendees. The venue was spacious and airy and the atmosphere friendly and relaxed.

The big question now is, where will 'Heaton Lodge' go next...? **Web:** www.britainsbiggest modelrailway.com







HRIS NE

NEW MODEL PREVIEW: ACCURASCALE'S 'DELTIC' ARRIVES



e were lucky enough to receive one of Accurascale's hotly anticipated Class 55s, just in time for our special cover shoot. Indeed, you can read the full story behind the cover on page 20.



8

Our sample, portraying D9014 The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, sports BR green livery with full yellow ends and, to our surprise, it turned out to be a DCC sound-fitted version, which boasts two large speakers. Accordingly, the emotive tones of a pair of Napier powerplants have been emanating from George's home office, much to the bemusement of his cats!

Accurascale's stock of the Class 55s was due to arrive around the time that this issue goes on sale, with a 'production' sample expected at *Model Rail* HQ imminently. Therefore, we will be putting both 'Deltics' through their paces prior to a full review in next month's issue. In the meantime, here's a sneak peak at the model in detail...



ACCURASCALE CLASS 55 'DELTIC' SPECIFICATION

- ◆ Switchable, directional lighting for DC and DCC
- Cab and engine room interior lighting
- Five-pole motor, twin flywheels, metal helical gearbox
- Geared to achieve a scale top speed of 120mph
- ◆ All-wheel drive and power collection
- ◆ DCC-ready with inbuilt capacitor power bank for smooth running
- ◆ Etched nameplates from Shawplan
- ◆ Pivoting, close-coupling NEM pockets and sprung buffers
- ♦ Supplied with sheet of self-adhesive alpha-numerical headcodes

Price: £160 DCC-ready

Availability: www.accurascale.co.uk

Keep up to date with Model Rail News online.







WILL IT BE THE ULTIMATE 'DELTIC'?

First announced in January 2019, the 'Deltic' is set to become Accurascale's first UK-outline RTR locomotive to reach the market. Following the high standards set by sister company Irish Railway Models with the Metro-Vick 'A' Class (MR294), expectations among modellers are understandably high.

Every livery permutation is being offered, from original two-tone green - with and without yellow warning panels - to BR blue (including white cab surround versions), plus the infamous Porterbrook purple 9016 Gordon Highlander, complete with modern headlamp clusters.

The level of detail specification across the board promises to be high, with prototype-specific fittings and livery embellishments where appropriate. For finescale modellers, drop-in packs of replacement wheelsets are also being offered, for both 'P4' and 'EM' gauges, at £24.95 per set.







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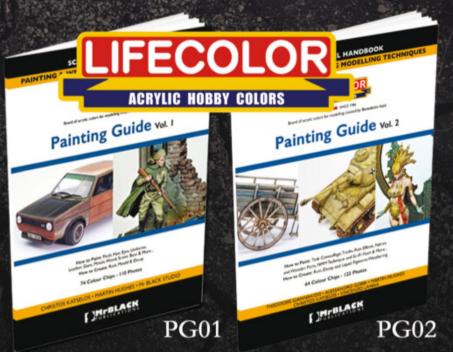
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HORNBY REVEALS 'ROYAL' PURPLE BULLEID SPECIAL

n collaboration with the Severn Valley Railway, Hornby is to produce a limited-edition collector's model of SR 'West Country' 4-6-2 No. 34027 *Taw Valley* to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Due to be repainted into purple and re-christened as No. 70 *Elizabeth II*, the locomotive is likely to generate lots of publicity for the SVR over the coming year.

Hornby's marketing and product development director Simon Kohler said: "We're thrilled to be doing this, and are certain this will be a hit with model railway enthusiasts and collectors."

The locomotive will be officially renamed on Thursday June 2, at the start of the SVR's Platinum Jubilee weekend event. It will run in its purple livery for a limited

HORNBY



time before returning to its original identity. A proportion of the profits from the model will be donated to The Patron's Fund, which supports the charitable organisations across the UK and the Commonwealth for which Her Majesty acts as a patron.

produced and an autumn delivery is expected.

What's planned?

◆ R30231 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 'West County' No. 70 *Elizabeth II* **Price:** £269.99

Availability: Hornby stockists

Only 1,500 models will be Web: www.hornby.com

RAPIDO ANNOUNCE SECR BRAKE VAN - WITH EXCLUSIVE VERSIONS FOR RAILS OF SHEFFIELD Rapido Trains UK will be 1910. BR inherited 86 dualadding a key wagon to its veranda vans, withdrawing the 4mm scale range of South last in 1960. One survives, at the Eastern & Chatham Railway Kent & East Sussex Railway. rolling stock, in the form of a Two body toolings are being created to reflect detail six-wheel brake van. The chosen prototype's origins differences, and ten versions date back to a small fleet of will be on offer, encompassing 20t six-wheeled vans SECR. Southern Railway and originally ordered by the BR liveries. South Eastern Railway in 1898, Price: £39.95 a design heavily influenced by When's it due? Late 2022/ early 2023 Midland Railway practice. The

Web: www.rapidotrains.co.uk www.railsofsheffield.com

numbers, in South Eastern Railway red and SECR grey. For Rapido's own range, the focus will be on later dual veranda versions, built from

SECR built a further 35

examples between 1900 and

1909. These early versions will be produced by Rapido as exclusive models for Rails of Sheffield. Three versions will be available, each in limited





CLASS 37 DECO SAMPLE CO APPEARS ON THE RADAR

ccurascale's Class 37 project has taken a big step forward with the arrival of the first decorated samples, including Accurascale's own exclusive version of Network Rail's 97301,





complete with radar equipment slung beneath the frames.

Further decorated samples were due as we closed for press

and delivery of the full range of '37s' is still on course for later this year. Demand has been huge, with many versions already sold out, although limited numbers of some variants are still available via Accurascale stockists. **Web:** www.accurascale.co.uk

Rapido has also been showing off the first engineering prototype of the hotly anticipated Liverpool & Manchester O-4-2 Lion (aka Thunderbolt).

RAILS OF SHEFFIELD EXPANDS INTO NEW ACCOMMODATION

Family-run Rails of Sheffield recently opened its newly refurbished store on Chesterfield Road, holding a grand open day on Good Friday. But the good news continues, as the Rails team is also in the process of moving into a bespoke new 12,000sq. ft building, which will accommodate offices and stock storage.

Adam Davies, operations director at Rails of Sheffield, said: "With so much usable space over two floors, this development will allow us to continue growing as one of Europe's largest model

railway retailers. We can't wait to move in over the coming months." Supported by HSBC UK, the new out-of-town facility will create up to 20 jobs across various areas of the business.

Web: www.railsofsheffield.com



OAA OPEN TO COME FROM RAPIDO

A key wagon type of the later age of British Rail freight operations, the Open AB, is to be produced in 'OO' by Rapido Trains UK. Later classed as OAA under the Total Operations System (TOPS), the 45T capacity wagons were built in the early 1970s for BR's emerging air-brake freight network.

Employed on all manner of

nationwide freight flows, the wagons also found use on departmental duties and some were modified for carrying stone blocks, with EWS modifying a batch of OAAs for this work in the 1990s.

A total of 17 different livery options will be produced, in BR bauxite, Railfreight, 'Dutch' and EWS maroon, including numerous patch-painted additions to the colour schemes, as was a distinctive feature of the prototypes over the years. Orders are now being taken.

Price: £39.95 each

When's it due? Early 2023 Web: www.rapidotrains.co.uk

HARDER & STEENBECK









PAINT EASY THE HARDER WAY







Over £1,500 worth of prizes to be won in our special 300th issue celebratory giveaway

To mark this landmark issue of *Model Rail*, we've assembled a glittering array of 'OO' gauge locomotives from Hornby, Bachmann and Heljan, plus a wagon pack from Accurascale and a pair of GWR buildings from the Hornby Skaledale range.

To enter, simply got to *www.model-rail.co.uk/300-competition* and answer the following question.

Q: In what year did the first issue of *Model Rail* magazine appear?

A - 1987 B - 1997 C - 2007





- 1. Hornby R3623 LMS 'Princess Coronation' No. 6221 Queen Elizabeth, LMS Coronation Blue (worth £189.99)
- **2.** Hornby R3770 'First and Last' pair of Class 43 HST power cars, 43002 *Sir Kenneth Grange*, retro BR blue/grey, 43198 *Driver Brian Cooper*, GWR green, gloss finish (worth £289.99)
 - **3.** Heljan 33281 Class 33/2 No. 6593, BR blue (worth £125.00)
 - **4.** Hornby R3721 GWR '61XX' Large Prairie 2-6-2T, GWR green, No. 6110 (worth £169.49)
 - **5.** Bachmann Branchline 31-137 Class D11/2 4-4-0 No. 6385 *Luckie Mucklebait*, LNER lined black (worth £169.99)
 - 6. Bachmann Branchline 31-188 Class 5XP 'Jubilee' No. 45565 Victoria, BR lined green, weathered (worth £178.95)
 - 7. Heljan 266222 Beyer-Garratt No. 4986, LMS photographic grey (worth £192.00)
 - 8. Hornby R7284 GWR Water Tower (worth £32.99)
 - 9. Hornby R7282 GWR Goods shed (worth £47.49)
 - 10. Accurascale ACC2623IIA4 IIA Biomass bogie hopper wagons, GBRf/VTG, twin-pack (worth £74.95)
 - 11. Hornby RailRoad Plus R30047 Class 37 37884 Cepheus Rail Operations Group/Europhoenix (worth £96.99)

Total value: £1,567.83



Entries are via website only and open to UK residents only. Eleven winners will be drawn, with one prize per winner. Prizes will be allotted at random. Closing date is May 31. Good luck!



THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA!

The Class 92 is a dual-voltage electric locomotive capable of running on 25kV AC from overhead lines via pantograph, or 750V DC from a third rail. It was designed specifically for operation through the Channel Tunnel between Britain and France. Since then, they have spread their wings, operating across the electrified sections of the national network and even to Eastern Europe.

We are producing a range of these elegant locomotives in OO/4mm scale, spanning the locomotives' lifespan to date, including the latest Caledonian Sleeper colour scheme, for which are also manufacturing the new Caledonian Mk5 Coaches.

Models will feature dual motorised pantographs, a wealth of separate detail, running on a heavy die-cast metal chassis, powerbank capacitors, with availability in both DC/DCC Ready and DCC Sound Fitted formats, the latter including a twin speaker set up including an EM1 style 'Accurathrash' speaker, and ESU Loksound 5 digital decoder.

Due Q3 2022, our locomotives will be available and ready to perform from Q3 2022. Pre-order direct from Accurascale's website today www.accurascale.co.uk



The Class 92s to be released are:

92 001 EWS, Victor Hugo

92 003 Railfreight, Beethoven

92 009 DB Schenker, Marco Polo

92 010 Caledonian Sleeper

92 020 GBRf

92 022 Railfreight Distribution, Charles Dickens

92 032 GBRf, ImechE Railway Division

92 036 EWS, Bertolt Brecht

92 038 Caledonian Sleeper

92 042 DB Schenker

92 043 Euro Porte 2, Debussy

Retailer commissioned locomotives will also be available. These are; **92 015**, **92 017** and **92 023**.

1:76/4mm scale, 00 gauge Available Q3 2022

£179.00 DC/DCC ready, £279.00 DCC sound



PONY CARTS AND PORTAKABINS



Scale Model Scenery's new 'OO' releases include a number of laser-cut kits for horse-drawn carts and tractor-hauled trailers, plus field rollers, cart wheels and assorted farm junk. The kits are easy to assemble and the parts feature plenty of fine detail. They'll look even

better once painted and weathered accordingly.

Also available is a useful kit representing a 20ft Portakabin, featuring a laser-cut wood shell, which is covered using the printed paper overlays supplied. Plenty of signage is provided, along with security mesh for the

windows. Stacking framework is also provided for greater realism. Just the thing for a construction site or modern railway depot.

Products: LX445-OO Leaf Springs (£5.19), LX436-OO Filed Rollers & Farm Junk (£5.69), LX437-OO Cart Wheels & Leaf Springs (£4.69), LX441-OO 20ft Farm/Bale Trailer (£6.79), LX444-OO Small Horse Cart (£5.69), KX068-OO 20ft Portakabin (£9.39).

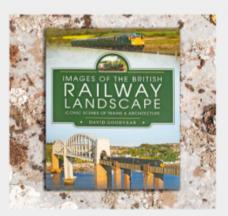
Availability: Scale Model Scenery Tel: 01530 456 952

Web: www.scalemodelscenery.



Modeller's Bookshelf

A quartet of inspirational rail-related books that has inspired Model Rail's editor this month...

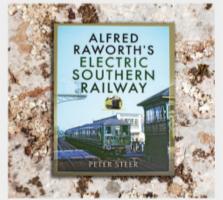


The sub-title - Iconic Scenes of Trains & Architecture sums up the contents of this book succinctly. The author presents a host of beautiful images featuring trains as part of a wider landscape, with famous bridges, viaducts and well-known locations adding the 'garnish'. The material is based on 21st-century views of the UK network, including heritage railways, and each colour image is accompanied by extensive captions. The reproduction of this hardback is to a high standard and I particularly enjoyed the images around the Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay. There's a welcome diversity of traction and geographical location, with some less-obvious parts of the country being a welcome inclusion.

Book: Images of the British Railway Landscape by David Goodyear (Pen & Sword)

Price: £30.00 **Availability:**

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

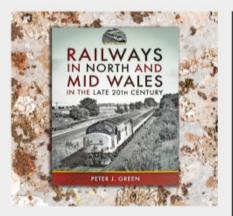


This hefty hardback provides a biography of Alfred Rowarth, engineer for the Southern Railway's ground-breaking electrification programme. The author considers the original business case for electrification and describes the innovative engineering practices that created one of the world's greatest electrified suburban networks, between 1918-56. Sir Herbert Walker may have been the driving force behind the project, but it was his engineer Rowarth - described as a genius by the author - who made it happen. Copiously illustrated with photos, maps and diagrams, there's plenty of technical details and explanations of how the various infrastructure operated. Useful for modellers contemplating a layout based on the Southern Railway.

Book: Alfred Rowarth's Electric Southern Railway, by Peter Steer (Pen & Sword)

Price: £40.00 Availability:

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

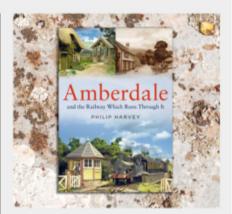


Anyone who travelled around north and mid-Wales in the 1980s and 1990s will appreciate this collection of over 200 black and white photographs. Capturing the last days of traditional signalling on the famous Cambrian route from Welshpool to Pwllheli and Aberystwyth, the book also covers the North Wales Coast route, along with the nowclosed branches to Amlwch and Trawsfynwdd, plus other key locations. Class 37s abound, along with '25s', '33s', '40s', the odd 'Peak' and a variety of first and second-generation DMUs. Some of the locations have changed in the intervening years, so the book offers a glimpse into the not-so-distant past. Various preserved railways also feature, including the Llangollen.

Book: Railways in North and Mid Wales in the Late 20th Century, Peter J. Green (Pen & Sword)

Price: £25.00 Availability:

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk



Painstakingly built over six decades, Philip Harvey's 4mm scale model railway, 'Amberdale', forms the subject of this 144-page book. There's certainly a Pendon flavour in much of the layout's scenes. However, 'Amberdale' is an elegant flight of fancy, featuring a fictional railway company in the 1890s, conjuring up an idyllic version of the English countryside. The colour photography is to a high standard (we received an electronic version) and the text engaging. There are plenty of inspiring and useful nuggets of information, from the use of forced perspective to the considered use of composition. The book will appeal to anyone interested in miniature modelling, especially those who plough a less 'technical' furrow.

Book: Amberdale and the Railway Which runs Through it, by Philip Harvey, (Fonthill)

Price: £20.00 **Availability:**

www.fonthillmedia.com



ON THE WORKBENCH

George Dent looks at the new products to land on his workbench this month

Contour sanding strips

These flexible, 4mm wide sanding strips from Ammo by MIG are supplied in a pack of six different grades, featuring 120/180/240/320/1200/1500 grits. Suitable for use on all manner of materials, from plastic, resin, wood and metal, the abrasives can be used dry or lubricated with water to avoid clogging. Perfect for working into tight corners or around delicate detail fittings, they're a great help when building kits or modifying parts.

Price: £2.25
Availability:
Scale Model Shop
Tel: 01422 405040
Web: www.scale
modelshop.co.uk

5-in-1 model scribing tool

Featuring an attractive, knurled handle and five interchangeable blades, this scribing tool was sourced from Amazon. Useful for all manner of cutting and shaping applications, the 58mm long blades are retained within the handle with an Allen key (supplied) and the tips range from 0.5mm to 1.0mm wide. Great for cutting plastic, resin or wood, especially when narrow channels are required, it has also proved capable when modifying miniature plastic and 3D-printed figures. Price: £14.99

Spiral flute drill bits

If you've tried drilling into sheet brass with a general-purpose twist drill bit, you'll probably have experienced a snagging/snatching. To avoid this, and ensure an accurate, clean hole, it's worth using a bit shaped specifically for harder materials. These drills are ideal for use with brass, copper and printed circuit boards (PCBs), as well as plastics and resin.

Supplied in sets of ten bits, from 0.3mm-1.2mm diameter, each is fitted with a coloured plastic collar, which allows them to be employed in the hand. They can also be mounted into a pin vice or mini drill,.

Price: £12.99 for five sets **Availability:** Amazon **Web:** *www.amazon.co.uk*



Clear storage jars with lids

Tired of cleaning up ballast or other scatter material as it spills out of opened plastic bags? These clear plastic jars, offered in a pack of nine, offer the ideal solution. Pouring opened bags of scatter - or any other loose parts or material - into the jars, the lids will keep everything secure, and they can be stacked neatly on a shelf. While the clear plastic allows the contents to be viewed, self-adhesive labels are also provided.

Price: £12.00
Availability: Geoscenics
Web: www.geoscenics.co.uk





COMMUTERS, STATION STAFF AND DELINQUENTS FROM MODELU

Figure specialist Modelu's latest additions include bundle packs of five 3D-printed figures, depicting contemporary commuters, Edwardian station staff and vandals. The commuter pack features four male and one female figure, wearing contemporary clothing and carrying typical lightweight baggage. The station staff bundle includes a porter, station master, booking clerk and a shunter, complete with coupling pole.

The modern vandal package is made up of four young lads with spray cans, drinks and an all-round air of listlessness, with a police officer included, making notes in his pocketbook. Each pack is available from 'N' gauge to 16mm scale and the bundles offer a 20% saving off the individual figure cost.

Products: 9017 Vandals Bundle, 9018 Commuters Bundle, 9019 Edwardian Station Bundle Price: from £18.00 per pack for 'N' and 'OO'

Availability: www.modelu3d. co.uk



DCC BUS LINE FILTERS AND INTERIOR LIGHTING CIRCUITS

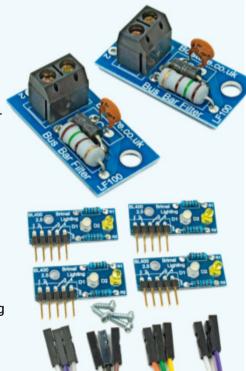
These small circuit boards offer a simple form of protection for all DCC-controlled circuits, such as controllers and decoders, against spikes or short circuits. Supplied in twin packs, one filter can be installed into the track power bus and the other for an accessory circuit. Given that the twin pack costs less than £10, it's a worthy investment to protect expensive hardware.

Also available is a useful interior lighting kit, featuring four separate miniature PCBs, each equipped with a choice of two LEDs for either warm white or yellow lighting effects. Each LED can be powered directly from a 3V-12V DC power source, or via Brimal's dimmable LED distribution board. At just 30mm by 11mm, the lighting PCBs will easily fit within most 'OO' and 'O' gauge building interiors, along with larger 'N' gauge structures.

Full installation instructions are provided with each kit.

Products: XBL400 Dual
Style Room Lighting kits
(£11.50 per kit), LF100 DCC Bus
Line Filter (£9.16 per pair)
Availability: Brimal
Components Ltd

Web: www.bclstore.co.uk



EXHIBITION DIARY - MAY - JUNE 2022

(ALL SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT **GUIDANCE ON COVID-19)**

May 14
LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE. Craven Arms & District Model Railway Circle Model Railway Exhibition, Ludlow Racecourse, Bromfield, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 2BT. **Time:** 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adults £5. children (under 16) free. **Tel:** David Gotliffe 07867 752301

SOMPTING, WEST SUSSEX.

Sompting and District Model Railway Club, Sompting Village Hall, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex. BN15 OBE. Time: 1000-1630. Admission: Adults £3.50, Children £1. Web: www. somptingdistrictmrc.co.uk

May 14 & 15

GLENROTHES, FIFE. Glenrothes Model Railway Club Annual Model Railway Exhibition, Lomond Centre, Woodside Way, Glenrothes KY7 5RA. Times: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1030-1630. **Admission:** Adults £4, over 60s £3, Child £2, Family (2+2) £11. Tel: Angus Stewart 01334 475311

HAYLE, CORNWALL. Hayle Railway Modellers Spring Exhibition, Day Care Centre, Commercial Rd, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4DE. Times: Sat 0900-1700, Sun 1000-1600. Admission: £5 per person, under 14's free. Tel: 07977 550051

STAMFORD, LINCS. Market Deeping Model Railway Club Exhibition, Stamford Welland Academy, Green Lane Stamford PE9 1HE. Time: 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adults £6, Children (5-17) £3, Family (2 adults + 3 Children) £15. Web: www.mdmrc.org

IMMINGHAM, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE. Immingham Model

Rail Show, Immingham Museum, Civic Centre, Pelham Road, Immingham DN40 1QF. Times: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adults £4, Children £1, Families £9. **Web:** www. imminghammuseum.org **Email:** admin@imminghammuseum.org

ELY, CAMBS. Ely and District Model Railway Club Model Railway Exhibition, Ely College, Downham Road, Ely CB6 2DY. Time: 1030-1630. Admission: Adult £6, Child (5-16) £3, under-5s free. Tel: 01353 721280. Web: www.elymrc.org.uk Facebook: @ elymodelrailwayclub

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May 21 & 22

LUTTERWORTH, LEICS. Model Railway Exhibition + Classic Bus Display 2022, The Lutterworth Sports Centre, Coventry Rd Lutterworth, Leics LE17 4RB. Times: Sat 1000-1630, Sun 1000-1600. **Admission:** Adults £5. Child £3. Family £12. (2+2). Tel: Harold Dunkley 01788 310354. Web: www. lutterworthrailwaysociety.co.uk

ORPINGTON, KENT. Pratts Bottom Model Railway Exhibition, Pratts Bottom Village Hall, Norsted Lane, Rushmore Hill, Pratts Bottom, Orpington, Kent BR6 7PQ. Times: 1000-1600 both days. Admission: Adults £5, Children (under 16) £1. Free parking on site & Café. Email: exhibition@ odmrs uk

ROBERTSBRIDGE, EAST SUSSEX.

Rother Valley Railway Model Railway Exhibition 2022, Robertsbridge Village Hall, Station Road TN32 5DA. Times: 1000-1600 on both days. Admission: Adults £4, Accompanied children: Free, Return Sunday FREE with Saturday's ticket.

SHFFIELD, SOUTH YORKS. Neepsend (Sheffield) Model Railway Society, Grenoside Community Centre, Main Street, Sheffield S35 8PR. Times: Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. **Admission:** Adults £6 Inc. 1 x free tea/coffee, Children £3, Family (2+2) £15, Web: www.neepsendmrs.weebly.com

BILLERICAY, ESSEX. Billericay Model Railway Group, Hannakins Farm Community Centre, Rosebay Ave, Billericay CM12 OXP. Time: 1000-1600. Admission: Adults and Unaccompanied Children: £5, Concessions: £4.50, Under 18: £3, 5 and under: Free, Family ticket £13. Email: exhibitionmanager@billericaymrg. org Tel: 07767 390172. Web: www. billericaymrg.org

May 28 & 29

BROADSTAIRS, KENT. Crampton **Tower Museum Model Railway** Show, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2AB. **Time:** 1000-1600. Admission £3 Adults, £1.50 child £7.50 Family. Web: www.cramptontower.co.uk

BROCKENHURST, HANTS. New Forest Model Railway Society Model Railway Exhibition, Brockenhurst Village Hall. Highwood Road, Brockenhurst, Hants SO42 7RY. **Times:** Sat 1000-1700, Sun 1000-1630. Admission: Adult £5, Child (5-16) £3, Family (2+2) £13.

COSSINGTON, LEICS. The Leicester Model Railway Group, The Barn, Main Street, Cossington, Leicester, LE7 4UU. Time: 1100-1700. Admission: With passports £5. Tel: 0116 284 8684.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND. Strathclyde O Gauge Group Glasgow 2022, Pollokshaws Burgh Halls, 2025 Pollokshaws Road, GLASGOW G43 1NE.

Times: Sat 1000-1600, Sun: 1100-1600. Admission: Adult £6, accompanied children free. Tel: 0141 637 4189. Email: wcampbell23@yahoo.co.uk

...... June 4

HILLINGDON, LONDON. Hillingdon Railway Modellers Test Track Open Day, Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall (side entrance), 74 Colham Avenue, Yiewsley, Hillingdon, London UB7 8HF. Time: 1000-1500. Admission: £5. Bring your 'O', 'OO' or 'N' gauge locos and trains to run on our club's three separate test tracks. Please note that this is NOT an exhibition, but a good opportunity to meet fellow friendly modellers. Web: www.hillingdonrailwaymodellers.co.uk Tel: 020 8368 4090.

SLEAFORD, LINCS. Sleaford and District Model Railway Club Exhibition, St George's Academy, Westgate, Sleaford NG34 7PP. **Time:** 1000-1600. Admission: Adults £5, Concession £4, Children £3. Web: https://sites.google. com/sites/sleafordmrc

June 4 & 5

WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE. Thelwall & Grappenhall MRC Jubilee Open Days, Rear of Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2SG. Times: 1200-1600 for both days. **Admission:** Adults £2, Children £1. Free parking; Stairs to layouts. Web: www.tgmrc.org

June 11

BURTON-UPON-TRENT, STAFFS.

The 7mm Narrow Gauge Association Annual Exhibition. Burton Town Hall, King Edward Place, Burton-upon-Trent DE14 2EB. Time: 1030-1630. Admission: Adult £5, 7mm NGA Members £3, Partners and children Free. **Web:** www.7mmnga.org.uk









We think our wagons are great. But don't take our word for it.







Here's what reviewers had to say about our 'OO' gauge Gunpowder Vans.

"Detailing... exquisite throughout" Railway Modeller "Sets a new standard and immediately impresses" Chris Leigh, Model Rail

"Excellent models...
I can't praise them
highly enough"
Howard Smith, BRM







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Staff Show & Tell special

MR300 - behind the cover

George Dent reveals how this month's cover was created.

printed publication, whether that be a book or a magazine. Naturally, you need to present prospective readers with a compelling reason to buy your publication over the countless other titles available. Indeed, it can be one of the most challenging tasks associated with publishing. Accordingly, the Model Rail team pour copious amounts of time and effort into crafting eye-catching compositions each month.

For this landmark issue, planning of the overall 'concept' began last year, initially with a handful of sketches in my trusty notebook. I've always been a visual thinker, in the sense that scribbling and sketching on paper helps me to process ideas more effectively than simply rolling them around in my head or typing them into a computer.

Having decided to collate each of the previous 299 covers into a collage (see this month's centre spread), it has been fascinating for us to look back at how Model Rail has evolved over the years. While we didn't make much of issue 200's cover, MR150 and MR100 were given a special treatment. The 100th issue was interesting, adorned with an illustration by our

long-standing artist Andrew Mackintosh. Depicting a green 'Deltic' roaring along

the East Coast Main Line (ECML), beside a track gang erecting a 100mph speed restriction, seeing it again brought back happy memories for those of us who were involved back in 2007.

So, how to treat MR300? I'd been kicking around a few ideas, but it was the arrival of a laser-cut kit from Scale Model Scenery last autumn that really got me thinking. Based on the famous lineside sign commemorating Mallard's world steam speed record of 1938, it made me wonder if we could create something similar. After a few basic sketches. I contacted the guys at Scale Model Scenery and enquired about a custom order for a 'Model Rail 300th Issue' sign, based on the same Mallard structure.

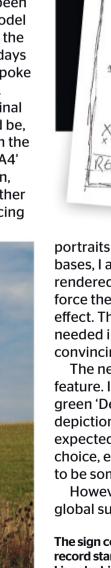
Once the artwork had been created, Justin at Scale Model Scenery asked me to give the design a final check and, days later, I had a bunch of bespoke laser-cut kits in my hands. Unsure exactly what the final image composition would be, I commissioned signs with the silhouette of the Gresley 'A4' pointing in either direction, allowing for a choice of either left-hand or right-hand facing



Issue 100's cover, which provided inspiration for the 300th, featuring a bespoke illustration from Andrew Mackintosh.

For the 150th issue, George's enhanced Hornby 'Castle' was shot in dramatic fashion by Chris Nevard, who had recently joined the Model Rail team.





George's original

MODEL RAIL

300th Issue

rough sketches.

portraits of an approaching train. To cover all bases, I also requested another pair of signs, rendered 25% larger, in case we needed to force the perspective a little for dramatic effect. Those over-scale versions weren't needed in the end, but they should look convincing on an 'O' gauge diorama!

The next decision surrounded what train to feature. In a further nod to MR100, I wanted a green 'Deltic'. Accurascale's 4mm scale depiction of the Napier-powered beauty was expected this year, so it was an obvious first choice, especially given that it may well prove to be something of a landmark release.

However, the ongoing uncertainties in global supply chains makes it difficult to

The sign commemorating Mallard's speed record stands beside the ECML near Stoke Bank, Lincolnshire. A scale replica kit is available from Scale Model Scenery (www.scalemodelscenery.co.uk), which gave George the idea of modifying the design to commemorate Model Rail's landmark issue.











Hot off the laser-cutting machine... courtesy of a bespoke order to Scale Model Scenery, the kits simply required assembly and painting.

anticipate exact arrival times. Would we have one in time for the cover shoot? Thanks to Fran and the team at Accurascale, we took delivery of a lovely green version, just in the nick of time – and weeks ahead of the production models' arrival.

Once I'd assembled and painted the trackside signs, they – and the 'Deltic' – were handed over to Chris Nevard, so he could weave his photographic magic. Aided by a loan of suitable rolling stock from his local model shop, Kernow Model Rail Centre (Guildford), it was all systems go! As usual, I added the words and the cover's design was completed by Matthew Hunt, our art editor

who, coincidentally, celebrates 20 years' service on *Model Rail* this month.

And there you have it - a striking cover that has been a real team effort. I'd like to thank Scale Model Scenery and Accurascale for their generous assistance.



After laminating the frames using the supplied overlays, to beef up the structure, the signs were primed with a matt black aerosol. The lettering was picked out by hand in an off-white acrylic, then sealed with a satin clear coat.

An advance production sample of Accurascale's new 'Deltic' was obtained, just in time!



Show & Tell

The place to share your projects with the Model Rail community.

MY ECO LAYOUT

In the May 2021 edition of *Model Rail* (MR286), you published a very interesting article by Philip John Pugh concerning a lightweight composite model railway baseboard he had constructed using cardboard boxes, as discarded by many large supermarket chains.

Having suffered a back injury during my younger years, which has since come back to haunt me, I found working on my first 'N' gauge layout situated in my garage difficult. Wishing to construct a light, compact layout I could use and keep indoors, this idea seemed the perfect solution. Being a fan of recycling, I wanted to use other discarded materials on my small layout to construct most of the buildings and the road layout. Furthermore, not wanting to risk damaging the base of the cardboard boxes (which had proved quite sturdy during the ballasting process), I decided to use some leftover roofing felt I had in the garage for the ballast appearance which, although some would say is not true to form, I felt was acceptable appearance-wise.

In June of 2021 the produce staff in my local supermarket were kind enough to give me three open cardboard boxes which are sturdy and had been used for transporting punnets of fruit and veg. This enabled me to commence constructing my desired 4ft by 2ft 'N' gauge layout which I can prop up out of the way against the wall in my study. Unlike the layout in the May 2021 edition, which is 'OO' and an end-to-end shunting concept, I realised I would be able to have a continuous loop. To add a little more interest, I decided to build in two passing loops, one for the station side of the layout and on the other a goods shed.

Being a continuous track layout and to

keep the strength in the three joined boxes I cut out arches, which allows the track to pass from box to box as does the road running through the middle of the layout. To enable me to easily lift and handle the construction, I built a wooden frame which sits underneath the layout, made of 20mm by 20mm timber, attached by means of Velcro strips. It adds little weight and is practical.

All buildings are scratchbuilt, utilising cardboard from egg box lids, cat food boxes and cereal boxes. The only exceptions are

the Metcalfe sheds and greenhouses.
The backscene is simply lengths of cardboard, painted sky blue and stuck to the inside walls with semi silhouette-style trees I have painted stuck on top. I believe this creates the desired effect.

As with Philip John Pugh's layout I hope this demonstrates that, with a little effort and imagination, you can construct a working railway layout which is light and practical, relatively cheap to build and eco-friendly.

Robert Beckwith

■All buildings are scratchbuilt out of cardboard and cereal boxes



22 *Model Rail* 300 June 2022

GREAT TO SEE 'TT'

Just received the May issue and it's fantastic to see a 'TT' gauge item.

I started with Hornby three-rail in 1950, then moved over to Tri-ang two-rail. In 1957, within a week of Tri-ang introducing 'TT3', I changed to it. I'm still with it and have never regretted it.

Thanks for that article - an excellent choice.

Alan Poole







A LESSON LEARNT

I have been interested in model railways all my life. Sometimes helping friends, occasionally building my own layout and even selling one, once. In all my life I have never built a layout to show at exhibitions.

Two years ago, I decided to build a layout based on the 'O-16.5' layout 'Crackington Quay', which I admire. Mine, however, would be 'OO'. And, as I knew the new Hornby O-4-O saddle tanks were coming, I ordered two.

I set the track up, wired it all and checked it worked. I used a 0-6-0 shunter to test it and it wouldn't go round the tight curves into the tunnel, but I wasn't worried because I knew the short-wheelbase 0-4-0s would.

I decided to try lots of modelling techniques. If my mate who exhibits at Weymouth show thought it was good enough, then maybe I would exhibit it. I built a drystone wall and a couple of buildings. Then the big day came and the new locomotives arrived. But, as they say, pride comes before a fall...

The O-6-O would do everything but go round the curve. The O-4-O would happily go round the curve but wouldn't traverse the points. I had used insulated frog points and the locomotive's short wheelbase led them to stall on the plastic frogs.

It was a harsh lesson. Still, I have a few buildings and a drystone wall with which to start my next layout!

Arthur Westlake











We will be producing both running numbers as 4 car packs. There will be 2 power cars, all will have internal lights.





Inside track with Ben Ando

Ben Ando is the founder of Revolution Trains and a regular contributor to Model Rail.

show there is always at least one suggestion that makes us scratch our heads and think 'hmmm... that could work!'

hew! I am writing this having just returned from an exhibition at the Bath and West Showground in Somerset which showcased 'Heaton Lodge Junction', aka Britain's Biggest Model Railway.

The show was superb, and among the usual crowd in attendance, I was struck by the number of families and younger people who came over the three days.

It was our third show in three months. Attending shows is tiring but worth it.

Like other manufacturers, Revolution goes primarily to meet and talk to existing customers and potential new ones. We'll display our latest models, including pre-production samples, to give visitors an idea of what is coming and how it will look, and it's a great way of getting feedback on any potential areas of improvement.

At the same time, such exhibitions are a great way for our customers to tell us what they'd like – and they do!

Some of the wish-listing is surprising, some completely impractical, and some just plain bonkers. However, at every show there is always at least one suggestion that makes us scratch our heads and think 'hmmm... that could work!'

So what makes for a good wish-list idea, and how can you make yours one that isn't laughed off the stand, but piques a manufacturer's interest?

Firstly, look at what the manufacturer already produces. It's fairly pointless suggesting to, say, Revolution that we make a range of track, or cars, or DCC control systems. Stick to trains!

Is there already a RTR version or kit available, or is it an obvious candidate for another manufacturer? We have had lots of people ask us to produce an 'N' gauge Class 90, but with Bachmann having launched a superlative 4mm model fairly recently it seems logical to think an 'N' gauge version can't be far away. I strongly suggest lobbying Farish if you want an 'N' gauge Class 90!

Next, consider how attractive your proposed model



would be in terms of sales. Was it a widespread, long-lived vehicle, or did it last for just three years on a single branch line in a remote part of the network?

If it is relatively short-lived that can be mitigated if it is particularly attractive, or quirky, or ran in long rakes so that fewer customers will purchase more.

Then consider research. Manufacturers aren't lazy (I don't think!) but they are under pressures of time, cost and resources. Can you provide, or know the location of, drawings and photographs? Better still – if it's a historical item – is an example preserved? Similarly, do you have any personal connections that would help with either research or licensing, where appropriate?

Finally, does the proposed model 'suit' the manufacturer? Revolution sees itself as a niche supplier often filling gaps left by the others; we could be receptive to something a little more esoteric, as long as it has sales appeal.

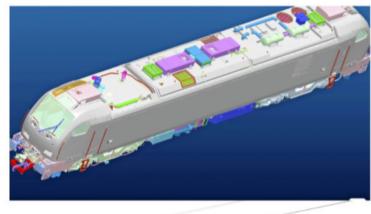
A good example of a successful pitch to Revolution is the Class B tankers which were suggested by two respected 'N' gauge modellers with well-reasoned arguments addressing nearly all these points.

Of course, there will always be models that break the rules. Revolution is offering the Rail Operations Group/Stadler Class 93 tri-mode locomotive. The real thing hasn't left the drawing board yet but as the first new locomotive built for the British network in a decade it's too good to miss.

Remember the Bath show I mentioned at the start? We were offered a suggestion there which we had never considered before, but it has got us thinking. It doesn't quite tick every box, but it comes close. Will we produce it? Watch this space!

Finally, I'd just like to wish *Model Rail* a very happy 300th issue. I recall reading the very first issue – can it really be a quarter of a century ago?









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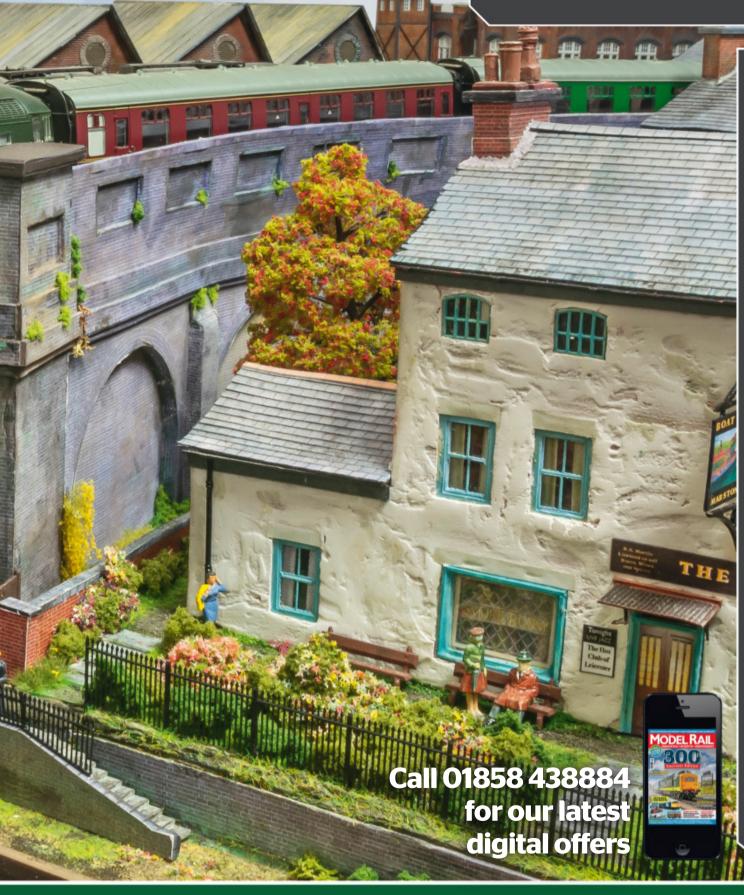
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Grand

Stickler for detail and self-confessed 'train nut' **Steve Povey** spent a long time planning this stunning layout, and overcoming technical challenges.

Words: Chris Gadsby Photography: Chris Nevard





'OO' GAUGE LAYOUT NOTTINGBOROUGH

e're all aware that getting the details right on a layout can turn a good one into a great one. We've even produced a bookazine titled *In the Detail* (see page 109), showing you all the things around the railway you may have missed and might want to include on your next model railway. For some, adding all of these details gets expensive and risks cluttering the layout, but for others, including Steve Povey, the details are the most enjoyable part of the whole build.

"When it came to planning my first layout, 'Nottingborough', I'd made lots of lists about the

details I could use and put onto the layout. I then spent an entire winter painting all the detailing bits before I even put the board and track down. I've been a train nut for as long as I can remember and was a member of Brambleton Model Railway Club in Harpenden in my earlier years, as well as working on the footplate on a preserved railway, so I knew a lot about engine sheds and it was natural that my layout would be based around one. About 20 years ago I had the idea of building a shed within a triangle, but the radius curves would have made the layout far too big. The thought stayed in my mind though, and after a few sessions with Giles

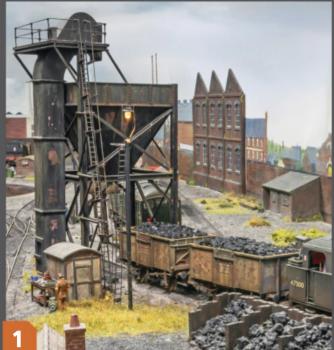


30 Model Rail 300 June 2022

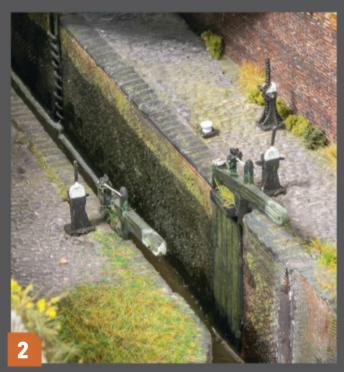




things we like



The Skytrex low-relief warehouses give the impression of a larger scene.



The additional paddle on the canal lock for the side pond – a feature that's rarely modelled.



The fire iron rack and 'Not to be moved' sign add to the realism of the scene.

'OO' GAUGE LAYOUT NOTTINGBOROUGH



Walburn and John Freer from Elite Baseboards, we were able to tweak it into something manageable. I wanted it to be a shed that would function and have all the necessary equipment. I particularly enjoyed the planning stage and making sure everything in the shed was in the right place."

Measuring 11ft by 2ft, Steve has modelled a 'OO' gauge transition period layout, with steam on the rapid decline and diesels making a more prominent appearance as the months go by, and the engine shed looking as though it's seen better days. Based in the Midlands but at a fictitious location, 'Nottingborough' could be perceived as a Great Central layout, although Steve was brought up close to the St Pancras line.

"The train I really remember is the Midland

Pullman, but you won't see that at this engine shed! My layout is almost all locomotives, but there are a dozen or so wagons to keep things a little more interesting. I'm planning a 4ft by 2ft fiddleyard extension for exhibition use to allow me to hold and run a greater variety of models. It was booked to appear at a couple of exhibitions last year before they were cancelled, but that has given me more time to add extra details."

TRACK FROM TILLIG

When it comes to choosing track for your model railway it's likely that you'll fall into one of two categories, either going for Code 100 which is slightly too tall but is more reliable with older stock that has deeper flanges, or Code 75, which is truer to scale but

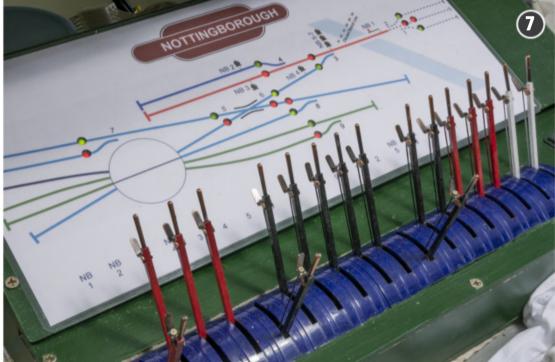
32 *Model Rail* 300 June 2022



I chose Tillig track Code 87 over other offerings because I felt that the pointwork was of a much higher quality
■ The standard of the pointwork was a much higher quality
■ The standard of the pointwork was a much higher quality
■ The standard of the pointwork was a much higher quality







is more suited to newer stock. After some help from Giles and John from Elite Baseboards, however, Steve went for a third option.

"I chose Tillig track Code 87 over the offerings from Peco and Hornby because I felt that the pointwork, in particular, was of a much higher quality. Yes, it is a bit more expensive, but when you compare the double-slip in the centre of the layout to the Peco offering the difference is clear. When I was a young boy Hornby sold point levers that you could use to change your points and I loved them. The time came to look at operating these points and I saw the DCCconcepts ones that were very similar, so I had to have them."

The points and signals are analogue controlled from Steve's movable control panel, meaning he can operate from the front at home and the rear at >

'OO' GAUGE LAYOUT NOTTINGBOROUGH







Steve owned a narrowboat tug from 1987 until about 1997 so the waterways have always been a large part of his life. Knowing canals so well, he could model one accurately without having to take too many pictures. Steve used the old Hornby narrow lock that came out about 15 years ago, but he made a number of modifications before weathering it to produce the effect of peeling paint. One thing he has noticed about off-the-shelf cobbled building sheets is that they are too uniform, so he made the cobbles himself in a random formation to make them more realistic.



exhibitions, so as not to get in the way of the viewers. The track, however, uses DCC control and all except one of the locomotives are equipped with sound and enhanced by weathering. Steve sent some of the models to G&C Weathering after they were recommended to him by John Gay of Digitrains.

"In my opinion they are the best in the business, but I always have a go at weathering myself. Wanting to improve my skills, I booked onto one of the courses run by the Missenden Railway modellers where I could learn from Mick Bonwick about how to use an airbrush properly, what the right equipment was to use and how I could hone my skills. The knowledge passed down on those courses is superb and I saved a lot of money by not buying inferior equipment beforehand. Purchasing their recommendations has stood me in good stead since."

34 *Model Rail* 300 June 2022



TURNING TABLES

We can't talk about 'Nottingborough' and not mention the front and centre feature which is the turntable, improved dramatically by Steve's additions.

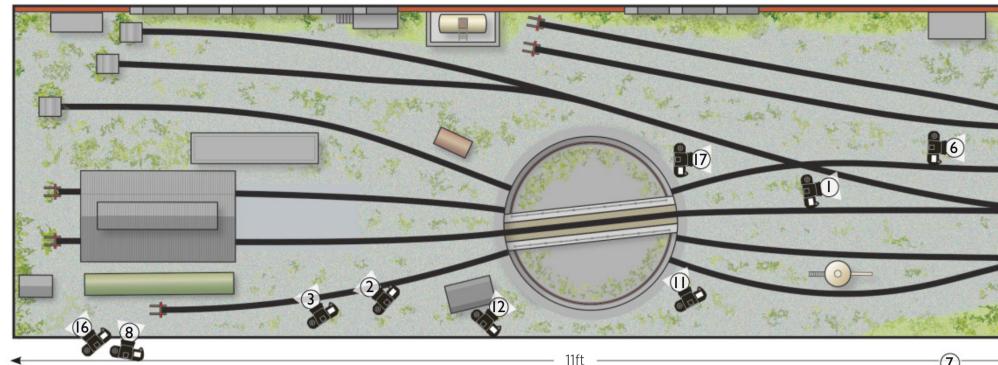
"I've had it converted into a vacuum turntable, as most of them were in that period. The vacuum pipes were bespoke, made for me out of whitemetal by a gentleman in Fife, and the winding gear is from an old Airfix kit. I had to buy the whole kit just to get the winding gear – I'm sure many modellers can relate to that! The brickwork on the internal face is sticky-backed plastic."

There's no doubt that Steve has done a superb job with his first model railway, but with everything being new to him, what did he find the biggest challenge?

"Everything. I had to learn new skills and pick people's brains to get as much information as possible, >



'OO' GAUGE LAYOUT **NOTTINGBOROUGH**









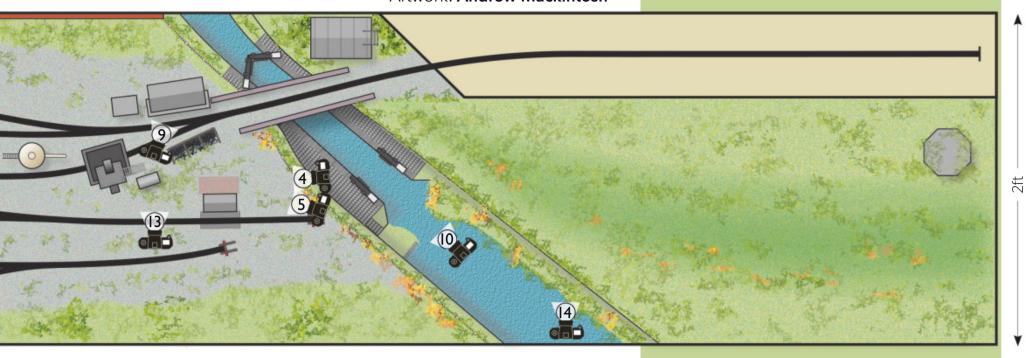


Steve is continually adding more details to 'Nottingborough'. If he sees something that he thinks will fit he'll add it in.



36 *Model Rail* 300 June 2022

Artwork: Andrew Mackintosh





FACTFILE: 'NOTTINGBOROUGH'

Gauge and scale: 4mm:1ft, 16.5mm scale, 'OO'

Size: 11ft by 2ft

Track: Tillig Code 87

Time to build: Six years

Power and control: DC/DCC



MODELLER CV: STEVE POVEY

In my time away from my layout I'm a member of the High Wycombe and District Model

Railway Society. I used to be a very good snooker player and could make century breaks. I'm hoping to start playing again now that Covid looks as though it's on the way out. I also have an interest in horse racing and have shares in some racehorses.

watch YouTube videos about how to use weathering powders correctly and so on. Everything had to be spot on so I took my time, and if I wasn't sure about something I took a step back and moved on for a bit. I'm no scratchbuilder, so the buildings and miscellanies are all kits, some of which required a lot of patience. The water tower, for example, is an old Dapol model. As you can imagine, there were some choice words at times!

"I've met some incredible modellers throughout the build, including the aforementioned Giles and John, as well as Justin at Scale Model Scenery, Mike at Geoscenics and Gordon Gravett. 'Nottingborough' wouldn't look anywhere near as realistic without them. I should also mention Mike Gasgoine, who did an excellent job of painting the backscene and integrating the warehouse panels into it while Tony Teague was kindly keeping it at his house for me."

Be sure to keep an eye out for 'Nottingborough' on the exhibition circuit over the coming years as it's certainly a layout not to be missed. With so many small details on which to feast your eyes you could find that you're there for some time!

Masterclass

Looking at railways in detail

An inventive ADVANCE

London Transport's innovative 1938 Tube Stock proved remarkably long-lasting. The first cars entered service on June 30 1938, with the final survivors of those exiled to the Isle of Wight withdrawn on January 3 2021. David Jukes recounts the stock's history from experimental prototypes to the present day.

The 1935TS ran

on the Piccadilly

trains had to be

stored until

he London Passenger Transport Board's formation on July 1 1933 led to the expansion of London Underground services. The

1935-1940 New Works Programme included

proposals for various line extensions, several of which were already experiencing capacity problems.

Future stock requirements repeatedly changed during the planning stages, but it was ultimately resolved to provide new higher capacity trains on the Morden-Edgware (later renamed the Northern) and Bakerloo Lines; the displaced Standard Stock replacing life-expired cars

The determined solution for higher capacity trains was to mount control and other electrical equipment below car floors and find a manufacturer able to

use of large traction motors required Tube car floors to be raised above the motor bogies, above which were equipment compartments with consequent loss of potential passenger space.

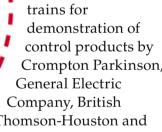
935 TUBE STOCK

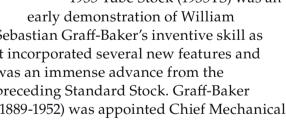
Construction of a 'highspeed' six-car tube train to the new layout was authorised in May 1935

with the order soon increased to four trains for demonstration of control products by Crompton Parkinson,

Thomson-Houston and Metropolitan Vickers. This











Engineer (Railways) in 1935 and played an important role in rapidly developing the Underground's rolling stock.

The Metropolitan Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company (MCCW) built 24 Driving Motors (DM) fitted with one Crompton Parkinson C200 traction motor per bogie and formed into two-car units. Eighteen had semi-circular streamlined driving cabs (10000-11000 to 10008-11008, inclusive), while the final six had conventional flat ends (10009-11009 to 10011-11011, inclusive); the stock formed into like-numbered pairs.

They were coupled mechanically,

A four-car unit of 1938TS (10012-012256-12048-11012) is preserved by London Transport Museum in operational condition, as seen here at Chalfont & Latimer while working special services between Amersham and Harrow-on-the-Hill on September 14 2008. DAVID JUKES



electrically, and pneumatically by means of a new automatic Wedglock coupler. Also specially designed were compressors of compact dimensions based on tramcar designs. All cars were 52ft 6in long with two double-leaf and one single-leaf air-operated doors per side. Forty fixed and two tip-up seats were fitted. External livery was essentially red and cream with grey roofs; red was applied beneath the waistrail, on the inner car ends and to the passenger doors below roof level – the flat-ended cars also had full red cab ends.

The 1935TS ran on the Piccadilly Line between 1937 and 1940; technical difficulties then meant the trains had to be stored until 1948. The streamlined cars were converted to Trailers in 1950/51 for operation with 1938 Tube Stock (1938TS), while the three non-streamlined units were rehabilitated to



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operate the Central Line's Loughton to Epping and Woodford to Hainault shuttles as two-car trains. These were fitted with Ward mechanical couplers and air hoses at their outer ends for compatibility with the Central Line's main fleet of Standard Stock.

The units then operated the Piccadilly Line's Aldwych shuttle between 1954 and 1957 before returning to the Central Line and its Epping to Ongar branch. A 1927 Standard Stock trailer was added to each unit (two in 1958 and the other in 1960) with all cars painted silver between 1963 and 1965 to match the unpainted aluminium stock operating on the main Central Line services. All were withdrawn in December 1966 with 10011-11011 modified in 1970 as an articulated unit on three new bogies, being used in this form as shunter L14A/B at Acton Works from 1971 (receiving service stock maroon livery in May 1972) until its 1975 scrapping (the other cars were broken up at Ruislip Depot in 1971).

1938 TUBE STOCK

The flat-ended 1935TS trains formed the basis for the three-car and four-car 1938TS units with minor changes; BTH control equipment and KLL4 compressors were specified and the C200 traction motor was developed into the LT100.

Orders were ultimately placed for 1,121 1938TS cars as shown in Table 1; these were changed no fewer than nine times as London Transport's (LT) plans changed. LT also rebuilt 58 spare 1927 BRC&W Standard Stock Trailers (7513-7570) at Acton Works to

Above: The final serviceable pair of 1960TS three-car units were painted red with cream window pillars in 1990/91 and relegated to the peak-hours Epping to Ongar Central Line shuttles. Their Automatic Train Operation equipment had been removed in 1986, with the three 1960TS units continuing to operate the Woodford to Hainault shuttles in One Person Operation mode for a further five years. 3909/4921/3908 are stabled at Loughton on January 31 1992 between peaks. DAVID JUKES

form part of the 1938TS fleet as 70513-70570. They became known as the '58 Trailers' and were readily identified by their clerestory roofs.

Wedglock couplers were fitted to the 1938TS driving ends, with cars linked elsewhere by semi-permanent bar couplings and 40-wire jumpers. Trailers and NDMs had four sets of air-operated doors per side (two double and two single), and the DMs three (two double and one single). The Trailers and NDMs were fitted with 40 fixed and four tip-up seats, and the DMs with 42 and two respectively. The external livery was simplified to red with cream window pillars and grey roofs (the brown used latterly was first applied during the war as very thick paint to overcome leaking roofs).

DMs 10012 and 11012 were the first 1938TS cars delivered on May 11 1938, entering Northern Line service on June 30 1938 in the formation 10012-012158-11012+10013-012159-11013, just seven weeks after initial delivery. The Bakerloo Line also received its new 1938TS trains; 10044-012192-11044+10094-

1938TS trailer 4927, sandwiched by 1960TS motors 3906 and 3907, is seen at Ongar on September 26 1994, four days before the Epping to Ongar line's closure by London Underground. This unit is preserved by Cravens Heritage Trains and currently resides at London Underground's Northfields Depot. DAVID JUKES

12068-11034 was its first on January 2 1939. Like-numbered pairs were retained for motored cars, but the concept was abandoned for trailers owing to the converted Standard Stock.

The London & North Eastern Railway owned 289 1938TS cars, a figure based upon the mileage of Central and Northern Line services worked over its metals. DMs 10238-323/11329-323, NDMs 12117-12157 and Trailers 012313-388 carried solebar plates stating: 'PROPERTY OF THE LNER', many of which remained until scrapping (ownership passed to LT in 1948 upon the British Transport Commission's inauguration). Some of the DMs later worked on the Isle of Wight and have been preserved, as we will see later.

Rehabilitation and withdrawals

LT proposed life-extending rehabilitation of 34 1938TS trains in 1970 to avoid a single large order for replacement stock. A four-car unit was tackled in 1971 before authority was given to treat the remainder.

The Extra Heavy Overhaul (EHO) programme included the fitting of external door light indicators and the rewiring of cabs, trailing ends, and lighting circuits. Floors, upholstery, armrests and sliding door edges were replaced. The last EHO was completed in December 1976, as bulk disposal of 1938TS cars continued from a June 1972 start. Remaining 1938TS was soon repainted with a lighter 'bus' red paint with white roundels and numbers.

Eight four-car 1938TS units ran on the East London Line between January 1974 and June 1977 to alleviate a CO/CP stock shortage on the District. Just the Bakerloo's allocation of 34 EHO trains and the Northern's allocation of 10½ non-EHO trains remained by the end of 1977, with the latter withdrawn by April 1978.

Some displaced cars were converted to service stock and six Trailers earmarked to replace life-expired Standard Stock Trailers running between 1960TS DMs on the Central's Woodford to Hainault shuttles. Just three were in service: 012392 (renumbered 4929), 012229 (4927) and 012366 (4921). Two units were later relegated to peak hour Epping to Ongar

services until the branch's closure on September 30 1994.

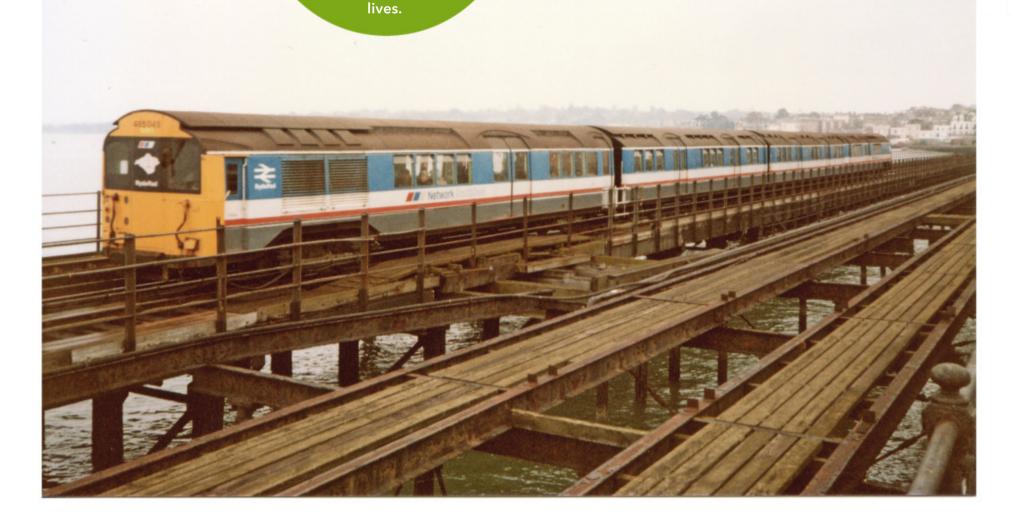
Deliveries of 1983TS to the Jubilee meant its 1972TS were replaced by the Bakerloo's 1938TS; the last Bakerloo 1938TS ran on November 20 1985 formed of 10291-012371-11291+10012-012256-12077-11012 which was specially restored to near-original condition in 1984 as the 'Starlight Express' thanks to a West End theatre ticket agency's sponsorship.

This and four other 1938TS trains re-entered service on the Northern in near-original livery between September 1986 and January 1987: the last running on May 19 1988 just six weeks short of a 1938TS half-century in London service.

Right: Nine pairs of 1938TS Driving Motors were rebuilt at Eastleigh Works for Isle of Wight operation - the first unit (483001 - cars 121/122, ex-10184/11184) entered service on July 13 1989. It uniquely carried a greater area of yellow on its cab fronts, continuing on the corners and to solebar level, as seen at Sandown on June 16 1990. DAVID JUKES

Below: The 1938TS - and the 1935TS prototypes required a reduction in equipment size to enable it to fit beneath the car floors. Previous stock required the fitting of larger diameter driving wheels and a raised floor area to enable traction motor installation; the raised area housed traction control equipment and the air compressor, all of which was too bulky to fit under the car floors, thereby losing around 15% of potential passenger space in a sevencar formation with three driving motors. Forty-four Standard Stock cars passed to British Rail in 1966 for operation on the Isle of Wight - unit 485045 (formed 10, 93, 94, 9) is seen on Ryde Pier on April 29 1989 shortly before its disbanding and replacement by Class 483 1938TS units. DAVID JUKES





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NINE-CAR EXPERIMENTS

Complaints about overcrowding on the Northern in the mid-1930s led to the experimental running of nine-car trains which required platform extensions at open-air stations and special measures at the seven-car length Tube platforms. The initial Standard Stock formations were considered so successful that the 1938TS order included ten nine-car block trains – four each for the Golders Green and High Barnet branches with two spares.

Changes were made to the standard 1938TS car types to ensure door controls and hand brakes remained within Tube platform limits. These were placed in third and seventh-placed Special NDM cars instead of the end DMs.

Two of the four Northern nine-car workings used 1938TS by June 1939, but this proved short-lived as the nine-car trains were reformed into block seven-car trains from the start of hostilities, remaining thus until renumbering and reformation in 1949.

WARTIME AND 1949 STOCK

The Second World War did not cause LT to immediately cease its network extensions; the Bakerloo reached Stanmore in November 1939, and the Northern served High Barnet (1940) and Mill Hill East (1941). Further work was abandoned for the duration (it was not restarted on the Northern) with later 1938TS deliveries stored or deferred (delivery of the last 27 1938TS cars was made in 1946 with the final example not entering service until May 1952).

Post-war priority was given to removing the remaining Standard Stock from the >



cars for the Class 483 conversion programme, essentially to increase the availability of spare equipment. Twenty of these went to the Isle of Wight (18 in two-car pairs and two as spare body shells), while the remainder were broken up - one at Eastleigh Works with the others sent by road from Fratton to scrap dealer D.G. Corbin of Wimborne. The yellow 1938TS cars seen at Fratton on August 22 1991 pending removal were latterly Ballast Motors.

DAVID JUKES

Above right: Two 1938TS Driving Motor body shells were sent to the Isle of Wight should usage either demand a tenth unit or accident damage require a replacement car. Former LT 10139 and 11172 were nominally 483010 (cars 130 and 230 respectively) but were kept in all-blue livery from their 1992 arrival on the Isle of Wight, initially on the Ryde Depot headshunt and latterly (minus bogies) on spare land alongside Ryde St John's Road station, as seen in November 2003. DAVID JUKES





1938 TUBE STOCK - FACTFILE

TABLE 1:	1938	TURF	STOCK	(AS	RUIIT)
	1730		JIOCK	$(\mathcal{A} \mathcal{S})$	DUILI

Vehicle Type	Builder	Numbers	
A-end DM	MCCW	10012-10323	
D-end DM	MCCW	11012-11323	
A-end DM (9-car)	MCCW	90324-90333	
D-end DM (9-car)	MCCW	91324-91333	
NDM	MCCW	12000-12028, 12409-12411, 12422-12446	
NDM	BRC&W	12059-12157	
NDM (9-car)	MCCW	92029-92058, 92447-92466	
Trailers	BRC&W	012158-012388, 012412-012421, 012467-012476	
Trailers (9-car)	BRC&W	092389-092408	
TABLE 2: 1949 TUBE STOCK			
Trailers	BRC&W	012495-012515	
A-end UNDM	BRC&W	30022-30045	
D-end UNDM	BRC&W	31000-31045	

TABLE 3. CONVERSIONS

TABLE 3: CONVERSIONS		
	Original numbers	New numbers
1935TS DM to Trailers	10000-10008, 11000-11008	012477-012494
DM (9-car) to standard DM	90324-90333, 91324-91333	10324-10333, 11324-11333
NDM (9-car) to standard NDM	92029-92054, 92056, 92057	12029-12054, 12056, 12057
NDM (9-car) to A-end UNDM	92055, 92058, 92447-92466	30000-30021
Trailer (9-car) to standard Trailer	092389-092408	012389-012408
UNDM to Trailer (1964)	30001	012516
NDM to Trailer (1966)	12151	012151
Undamaged DM ends to Trailer (1966)	11073, 10296	012517
NDM to Trailer (1970)	12022	012022

TABLE 4: 1938TS ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

LT Numbers	NSE Numbers	NSE Unit Number	Entered Service
10184-11184	121-221	483001	July 1989
10221-11221	122-222	483002	October 1989
10116-11116	123-223	483003	October 1989
10205-11205	124-224	483004	May 1990
10142-11142	125-225	483005	May 1990
10297-11297	126-226	483006	May 1990
10291-11291	127-227	483007	June 1990
10255-11255	128-228	483008	July 1990
10229-11229	129-229	483009	June 1992
10139-11172	-	-	-

1938TS AS LT SERVICE STOCK

- DMs 10130-11130 converted into two-car Acton Works electric yard locomotive L13A/B in 1974. Withdrawn in 1986 when car overhauls moved to line depots.
- Tunnel Cleaning Train constructed at Acton Works (1974-1978) formed with converted DMs TCC1 (ex-10226) and TCC5 (ex-10087) at each end. Scrapped Ruislip Depot December 2012.
- Seventeen Ballast Motors L140-L155 (used as motive power in engineering or ballast trains) converted from DMs at Acton Works between 1972 and 1980 (L140 used twice as first destroyed by fire January 1979). L150 and L151 formed weedkilling unit, scrapped Ruislip December 2012.
- 002 and raplaced by rapumbared 11170)
- London Transport Museum: DM 11182 at Covent Garden. Four-car unit 10012-012256-12048-11012 in operational condition at the Acton Depot (original 11012 damaged in

1938TS IN PRESERVATION

- 1983 and replaced by renumbered 11178).
- Craven's Heritage Trust: Converted 1938TS Trailer 4927 formed with 1960TS DMs 3906 and 3907. Stored at London
- DMs 11247, 11165 and 10165 converted to personal carriers PC857-859 1980/81. Withdrawn early 1990s.
- Trailer 012331 intended as Track Recording Car TRC912. Stored at Acton Works unused until 1987 transfer to Ealing Common Depot as stores vehicle. Scrapped 2006.

Underground's Northfields Depot.

- Isle of Wight Steam Railway: 483007.
- London Transport Traction Group: 483006 and 483008.

Masterclass

Bakerloo and completing its platform extension works to enable seven-car trains. An extension from Elephant & Castle to Camberwell Green was proposed in 1948, for which 91 additional 1938TS-compatible cars were ordered from BRC&W as the 1949 Tube Stock (1949TS).

The 1949TS consisted of 21 Trailers and 70 Un-coupling Non-Driving Motors (UNDM) – see Table 2. The latter was a new type fitted with a Wedglock coupler and shunting controller at its outer end to enable a three-car portion to be moved into and out of service; the shunter using the communication door window for forward vision. Twenty Special NDMs from the nine-car experimental trains and two standard NDMs were also converted to UNDMs.

The 1938TS and its compatible variants now numbered 1,288 cars, formed into 184 seven-car trains on the Northern (115) Bakerloo (54) and Piccadilly (15). Two major stock reformations in the early 1950s made use of spare Trailers and the new UNDMs (see Table 3). A livery change was made around this time; the cream window pillars became red as cars were repainted.

LT also used the 1938TS to test new and experimental lighting, ventilation, and control systems. Perhaps the best-known trial was carried out on DM 10306 in 1949 with the fitting of extended windows to enable standing passengers to look out without stooping, running in this form until its 1978 withdrawal.

NORTHERN & CITY LINE

Surplus 1938TS replaced the Northern and City Line's aging Standard Stock in the mid-1960s. This line's service was soon reduced to a Moorgate to Drayton Park shuttle, as its Finsbury Park station platforms were required for the Victoria Line, which operated until the line's infrastructure was handed over to British Rail in October 1975 as part of its Great Northern electrification scheme.



Above: London Transport Museum's 1938TS unit is kept at its Acton Depot; the interior of a driving motor car looking towards the guard's controls at the non-driving end is seen there on October 16 2010. DAVID JUKES

Below: A pair of Class 483 units - 483009/7 call at Sandown with an early evening service to Shanklin, in July 2005. RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



Island exile

It was apparent by 1987 the continued operation of former LT Standard Stock on the Isle of Wight was not economic. 1959 or 1962TS was not available, so Network South East (NSE) obtained most of the remaining 1938TS cars from London Underground.

Forty-four cars were acquired from which eight two-car units – formed of DM pairs – were initially converted at BRML Eastleigh; a ninth unit later followed as did a pair of spare cars. The Class 483 units wore NSE livery and numbers 001-009 (see Table 4). Fluorescent lights and public address equipment were fitted, together with replacement flooring, upholstery, and woodwork. Remaining redundant cars were moved from Fratton for scrap between July 1991 and February 1992.

Sets 483003 and 483005 swapped cars to form one working unit in February 1994. The new 483003 (123-225) returned to service and 483005 (formed 125-223) was withdrawn, thereby reducing the island fleet to eight units.

Further reductions followed; cars 123 and 221 were withdrawn in May 1995, and 121 and 222 in June 1996. 483002 was now formed 122-225 with 483004 and 483006-009 (inclusive) retaining original formations. Withdrawn cars 121, 125, 222 and 223 were scrapped in April 2000 while 123 and 221 were stored at Ryde St John's Road before scrapping in June 2006 (Spares donors 10139-11172 were scrapped in the late 2000s).

NEW LIVERIES AND FINAL WITHDRAWAL

In 1996 the Island Line franchise was won by the Stagecoach Group. Units 483002/004/006/008/009 were repainted light blue with Dinosaur vinyls during 2000; the exception (483007) carried London Transport red and cream livery in recognition of its cars forming part of LT's 'Starlight Express' train, albeit now with yellow warning panels. Damage sustained in October 2000, when Ryde Works flooded, delayed its service return until 2003.

The other units were also painted red upon overhaul in 2007, at which time seating was reupholstered using the same moquette as the Underground's refurbished A-stock.

South Western Railway took over the franchise in 2017 with the units receiving its logos and 'Island Line' legend in white on the car sides. The units' age, and difficulties in sourcing spare parts, caused several operational issues and resultant service reductions; ultimately it was announced in September 2019 that the fleet would be replaced by converted Underground D-Stock.

The Class 483s last ran on January 3 2021 with 006, 007 and 008 confirmed for preservation. The oldest EMUs in regular service are now the Bakerloo Line's 1972TS.



COMMUTERS ON A BUDGET

Chris Leigh finds an inexpensive way to add passengers to EFE Rail's underground train.

n my experience it has always been unusual to see an empty Underground train. As a child, travelling on the London Transport Tube system always seemed to involve crowded platforms and trains crammed full to the gunwales. So, the one thing that I felt the new EFE 1938 Tube stock needed was a load of passengers – a substantial load.

There are certainly some problem areas, notably that I did not think it was a good idea to stick figures all over the electronics in the power cars, even if it was possible to do so. The small size of the seats and the slightly elevated floor means that 'HO' scale passengers will be a better fit than figures intended for 'OO' but even 'HO' passengers will need trimming off below the knees.

Another issue is cost. The train needs to appear pretty full, which means that most of the 30+ seats in each of the four cars need to be occupied. With 'HO' scale passengers from the likes of Preiser and Noch costing around £10 for half a dozen figures you could be looking at over £200 to fill the four-coach EMU. Clearly that is not an option, particularly when, to add insult to injury, it is going to be necessary to amputate lots of legs to make them fit.

There is a way out, however, and I found it



some months ago, while searching for seated figures to populate a Bachmann diesel railcar. Search for 'seated passengers HO' on Ebay and you will be taken to various bulk packages of figures from China. At this point, a word of caution. I have no idea why, but some of these are for sale at absurdly high prices. I presume this is in the hope of catching buyers out and that they press 'buy' before realising they have committed to a ludicrously priced purchase. I'm surprised that Ebay allows it.

Bulk packs of 50-200 figures are available and there are various packs, some much better quality than others. I bought a pack of 100 for the railcar. They were, in a word or three, cheap and nasty, and also a little under-sized even for 'HO' scale. For that reason I did not use them in the Bachmann DMU but consigned them to my 'Figures' drawer. They surfaced again as I was looking for figures to suit the EFE Tube stock and they offer a distinct advantage for this particular job.

We only need to see head and shoulders and when viewed through the windows, any figures

tend to appear largely as silhouettes. Each pack consists of multiple numbers of the same six or eight mouldings, in various different colours of plastic. They are largely unpainted, most having nothing more than a dab of black paint to give them a very basic hair-do.

Once installed in the seats, it is not difficult to give them a quick brush-over with more subdued 'western hemisphere' coloured clothing and to retouch the hair with dark brown. A dab of flesh colour on faces and hands also improves the look of them, and I found that I had no qualms about trimming the legs of these less expensive figures.

AVAILABILITY

Availability and prices on Ebay can vary very quickly, but a check on April 19 showed numerous options under 'Seated figures HO', including a pack of 50 at £5.95 and the pack which I've used here - 100 for just £4.14. If I was buying now I would go for a pack that showed a lot more varied and better quality mouldings at 60 for £12.99.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS LEIGH

Masterclass



Opening up the EFE Tube cars is easy. A fine blade inserted between the lower edge of the body and the chassis will release the clips above the bogies. Slide the blade towards the ends to release both clips, either side.



The body lifts off - there's no wiring to detach. Power is transmitted between the chassis and the lighting strip by two metal posts. When refitting the body, make sure it's the correct way round for these to locate in the chassis.



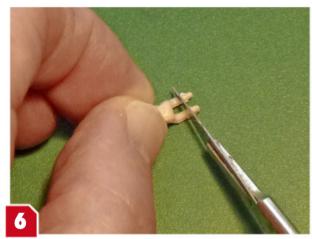
The two different interiors. The control desk on the motor coach is indicated but there is no seat and I could not find an appropriate figure, so I've left my train driverless for now.



The bag of Chinese figures. These are a little undersized, even for 'HO' scale, but they provide a cheap and simple way to add passengers to the EFE model and can be improved with a little extra paint.



The flesh-coloured mouldings need to have clothing painted and most of the coloured mouldings benefit from a dab of paint and flesh colour for faces and hands.



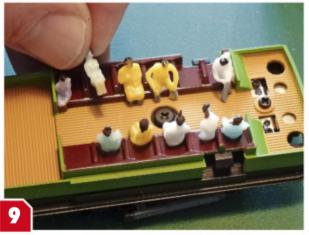
I made no attempt to paint individual figures before installation. I removed any excessive flash and trimmed off the legs with a sharp craft knife mid-way below the knees.



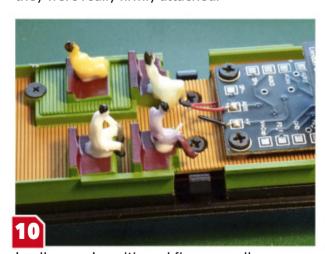
A spot of Velo-Set adhesive (Javis quick-setting PVA) was applied to the figure's posterior and it was then pressed into place on the seat. I left all figures to set in place overnight and found they were really firmly attached.



I used a craft knife to position the figures, especially the ladies, whose skirts oblige some of them to sit sideways. I had plenty of figures so I could fill virtually every seat.



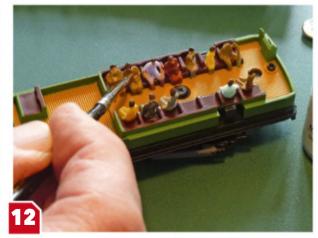
There were rather a lot of white mouldings and nobody in their right mind wears white on the Underground! I had already repainted some of the heads with dark brown hair.



In all cases I positioned figures well away from the carriage sides to avoid any risk that they might foul the glazing and prevent the carriage body fitting back in place.



Once the glue had dried the figures are firmly attached and it was easy to paint them using Omen Acrylics from the figure painting set. I chose mainly subdued colours, greys and browns for 1950s Londoners.



The paint easily covers the translucent 'plasticky' look of the figures and by using a really small brush the face and hands can be dabbed with flesh colour. Little else is needed.

46

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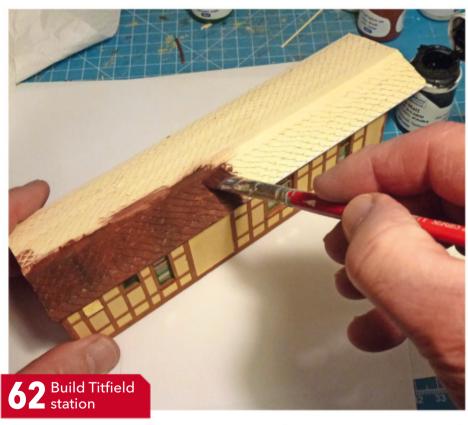




Mortsbench

17 pages of projects, advice and top tips that show you how





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George Dent Learn from one of the country's best modellers.



Chris Nevard Our ace snapper is also a hugely talented modeller.



Chris Leigh Quite simply, what Chris doesn't know isn't worth knowing!

Project difficulty ratings

Easy: one screwdriver Very hard: five screwdrivers.

HOW TO

UPGRADE A'GREYHOUND'

George Dent adds some extra detail to the footplate of his Hornby



n previous landmark issues of *Model Rail*, I've created models to match the occasion: A Class 45 'Peak' as D100 and a Class 150 DMU conversion for the 100th and 150th issues (in case you hadn't guessed!).

For this issue, another diesel option would've meant a disc-headcode Class 40 as D300. While I seldom pass up the chance to work on a Class 40, I did fancy something 'steamy' instead. A wee bit of research threw up a Scottish-style LSWR Drummond 'T9' 4-4-0, which carried No. 300 up to nationalisation. Did the real thing wear the wartime plain black with 'sunshine' lettering? I hoped so, as that would make for a very easy re-numbering project.

Alas, I drew a blank in terms of pictorial proof, but I decided to gamble and go ahead anyway. One thing I've found in recent years, with the scarcity of certain 'OO' locomotives, is that some of my projects have been dictated by what donor models I can actually get hold of, without spending a fortune. A trawl across a

MODEL Hornby 'T9' 4-4-0



well-known internet auction site turned up a wartime black 'T9', with the correct six-wheel tender and wide cab/splasher arrangement, at a sensible pre-owned price.

I'm not sure if the model (Hornby R2829, 'T9 No. 314) had ever been used, so I felt pleased with the purchase initially. However, when I came to remove the body, the motor housing disintegrated - the dreaded Mazak rot! Luckily, it turned out that we had a much more recent Hornby 'T9' in the *Model Rail* office, so I could effect a rapid chassis swap. This prompted Chris Leigh to check his 'T9' collection, some of which were also affected, as he mentioned in last month's Backscene.

A few readers have since been in touch to say how helpful Hornby had been in providing replacement parts for damaged models. So, if

your 'T9' has suffered from crumbling metal chassis components, we recommend contacting Hornby in the first instance. Peter's Spares offer a bespoke replacement motor mount (www.petersspares.com) and Chris has been experimenting with installing one. It's also worth noting that Hornby subsequently tweaked the design of the 'T9' chassis to mitigate against similar issues.

Back to the Southern's No. 300 and, in this demonstration, we'll concentrate on changing the numerals on the cab and bufferbeam, plus adding a range of extra details. Finally, a subtle weathering job was required, befitting a steam locomotive in the pre-BR 1940s era.

Is it too soon to think of potential projects for MR400? I might be tempted to revert to a diesel for that one. Any guesses which one?!

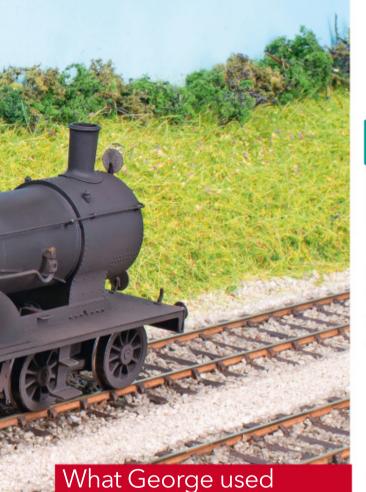
PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE DENT

50

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MATERIALS

- T-Cut finish restorer
- LifeColor acrylic paints and dry pigment, AlcladII clear gloss (www.airbrushes.com)
- Tamiya acrylic paints and thinners
- Coal chippings

DETAIL PARTS

- Modelu 1090-076 Seated driver, 1089-076R Seated locomotive crew leaning to right, 2760-076 Loco crew detailing pack, 2074-076 SR Loco lamps Web: www.modelu3d.co.uk
- Mainly Trains MT256 Loco detail fret 2 (SR indicator discs) Web: www.wizardmodel.ltd
- HMRS Pressfix Sheet 10 Southern Bulleid locomotive insignia Web: www.hmrs.org.uk

TOOLS

- Knife and spare blades
- Miniature screwdrivers
- Tweezers
- Cotton buds
- Cocktail sticks
- Calipers
- Paintbrushes
- Airbrush and equipment (optional)

Prototype factfile: LSWR 'T9'

Dugald Drummond's classic 4-4-0s were designed for the London & South Western Railway and introduced from 1899. The 66-strong class of express passenger locomotives gained the nickname 'Greyhounds' owing to their high-speed capabilities.

Production of the fleet was spread across the LSWR's Nine Elms Works and Dübs & Co. Glasgow. No. 300 was one of the LSWR-built batch, emerging in 1900 and it retained its original LSWR number

after the Grouping. British Railways changed the number to 30300 and the locomotive was withdrawn in 1961. A single 'T9' was preserved, No. 30120 (above), which is part of the National Collection and based at the Swanage Railway.



With a little T-Cut and a cotton bud, the printed numbers were gently rubbed away. Use gentle pressure and swap to a clean bud and fresh T-Cut at intervals. Once the digits have gone, use dry buds to buff the surface clean.



the T-Cut, or it will leave a powdery deposit. Leave overnight before measuring and marking out for new numbers with masking tape.



When applying individual numbers, I always start with the centre digit. The HMRS pressfix decal is carefully cut and peeled off the backing sheet. Place loosely in position and adjust its position until it sits exactly where it needs to.



When absolutely sure that the digit is aligned correctly, wet the paper film with clean water. After a minute or so, the film can be slid away. Carefully dab away any excess water from the surface with a cotton bud.



The digits either side of the centre character can then be added in turn, following the same procedure. Brushing over with Micro Set solution removes any traces of gum from the decals and helps them settle onto the surface.



Allow a couple of hours for the decals to dry out before gently peeling away the low-tack tape. The tape is a visual guide only, so don't apply the decals against the edge of the tape or they will be damaged when it's peeled off.

Workbench expert modellers show you how



A light coat of clear satin varnish was airbrushed over the new cabside numbers (an aerosol would suffice). While the body dried, I painted the chassis and wheels with a blend of LifeColor acrylic paints mixed with a little dry pigment to add texture.



The same mix was also applied to the tender chassis, taking care around power collector strips which can be easily damaged. A mix of matt black, weathered black and blackened umber paint was used, with Golan dark earth dry pigment.



The LifeColor matt black and blackened umber were blended and brushed over the tender body, before immediately wiping it away with cotton buds in downwards strokes. This leaves feint streaks of the matt pigment. One side at a time was treated.



The same blend was applied to the locomotive body in the same way, wiping away most of the paint with the swabs. A little Tamiya acrylic thinner will help shift the paint if necessary. Take care around all the delicate detail fittings.



Reverting to the paint and pigment blend used on the chassis, the tender top and internal edges of the bunker were dabbed with the textured finish. A little rust-coloured paint creates a nice contrast with the bodywork.



The locomotive's footplate was treated to the same textured coating, dabbed onto the model with a soft flat brush. The dabbing action creates a random texture and removes the risk of creating linear brush strokes.



TOP TIP The tender was loaded with real coal chippings, applied in a thin layer over the moulded plastic load. The loose material was fixed with Ballast Bond from Deluxe Materials, applied via a pinpoint tip. The tender had to be raised slightly at the front end to prevent the thin glue from running out onto the footplate, but not raised too much, in case it ran backwards instead!

If you do need to remove any excess glue, a damp cotton swab will do the trick. Apply the glue sparingly, however, and it shouldn't cause problems. Allow it to dry overnight and, if some of the coal is still loose, add a little more glue.



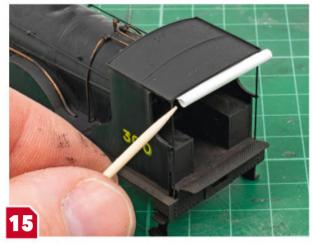
Before weathering any further, I needed to add a storm sheet to the cab. Hornby's model features securing hooks on the cab roof, so a rectangle of cigarette paper was cut and bonded to the roof with a bead of cyano glue.



While we don't condone smoking, the cigarette paper is thin and flexible but doesn't tear easily, making it ideal for lots of modelling tasks. The paper was rolled around a cocktail stick and secured with a little more glue.

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After waiting a few seconds for the cyano to set, the cocktail stick could then be slid carefully out. The rolled paper can then be shaped to appear a little more haphazard before painting with a dark grey acrylic paint.



The brush-applied weathering looked a little rough, but the effect was softened dramatically by misting a very light mix of matt black, dark grey and red brown Tamiya acrylics over the locomotive and tender bodies and chassis.



The blend of paints was tweaked to cover different areas of the model and to add darker shading here and there. The smokebox and cab roof, in particular, were treated to a darker mix, with a 'browner' shade misted onto the chassis and tender top.



The footplate crew and detail parts, from Modelu, were tacked to scraps of wood (old pegs) with tiny drops of cyanoacrylate glue. After a coat of aerosol-based primer, they were painted with various acrylics.





When the Tamiya paints had dried, a clear gloss (AlcladII) was airbrushed over the tender and cab sides, splashers and boiler, to mimic a polished appearance. This is a great way of replicating the appearance of steam locomotives, but an airbrush is essential.



A set of SR indicator discs (sprayed with white primer) was cut from an etched detail fret. The Modelu footplate details - driver's bag, oil cans, shovel - were fixed to the tender, along with fire irons shaped from brass wire.



Once everything is dry, the model was placed in a foam servicing cradle (www.dccconcepts.com) and the wheels and power collectors were cleaned carefully with fine cotton swabs and microbrushes, with the aid of Loco Go! (www.hobbytrax.co.uk).



The Modelu footplate crew were also installed. The driver needed his left leg trimming at the knee to allow him to sit facing forward. The tea can was placed on the firebox shelf and a handlamp placed on the fireman's bench.

HOW TO

WEATHER A BRAKE VAN

Don't think you can achieve great weathering results without an airbrush or special gear? Chris Nevard reveals how just a few simple ingredients can be used to cook up something very special.

he idea of weathering locomotives and rolling stock can put many off, but in fact it need not be daunting or expensive.

For this demonstration, I made use of matt emulsion 'test pots', plus some Humbrol acrylic paints. Test pots are great - they are easy to source, dry completely matt and are available in all sorts of natural tones and colours. I'm a big fan of matt emulsion for scenic work, but increasingly I find they're great for weathering rolling stock too.

The effect that I was aiming for was that of

MODEL Oxford Rail OR76TOA002 six-wheel GWR 'Toad' brake van



a wagon that has been almost forgotten, but nevertheless showing signs of basic repairs. It's a good idea to have a look through books and trawl the internet for inspiration. Paul Bartlett's website, in particular, is a goldmine of reference images for all manner of British Railways wagons (www.paulbartlett.zenfolio.com).

This proved to be a good Sunday

afternoon project and, by using these methods - and a little practice - some effective results can be produced. If you do make a mess, a damp cloth can wind the clock back. In fact, taking off what you have just done can produce a good effect in itself, especially if you want a less weathered look. Experimentation is the key. Try it for yourself - and have some fun!



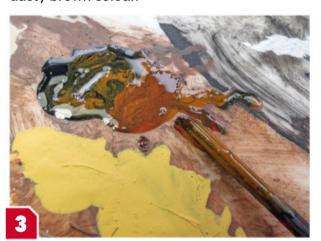
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS NEVARD

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I like the look of replacement planking. I know it's a bit of a modelling cliché, but it creates an effective appearance of age and adds some character. Using a small round brush, 'replacement' planks can be picked out in a dusty brown colour.



There's no need to be too tidy at this early stage, as subsequent weathering will cover up any untidiness. Using an old plate, I created a mix of brown, red and black acrylic. Enamels are just as effective.



You might want to add a tiny dash of water if the paint is too thick. Then, with a reasonable sized brush, I 'splodge' a healthy dollop of the mix over one side of the model.



I'm using hobby acrylics here, but enamel will work just as well. Matt emulsion will work too, but later washes might remove it. Bare wood varies from pale grey to orange, depending on age and the type of timber. Look at the real thing for inspiration.



Using the 000 sized brush, random patches of various red/brown shades were applied, picking out spots of rust and other bits of wear and tear. Again, there's no need to be too accurate at this stage.



Before it dries, dab off the excess with kitchen towel, leaving the dark pigment in the recesses. Leave to dry, then treat the other side, ends and chassis. Remove any excess with a damp cloth or kitchen towel.

What Chris used

TOOLS

- Small screwdrivers for dismantling.
- Paintbrushes: A OOO size sable brush for fine detail and a selection of bigger flat and round brushes for washes and dry-brushing.

PAINTS

Interior matt emulsion match pots and various modeller's acrylics.



Next the grubby bit: for this I use matt emulsion. It's water-based, so it won't lift off the acrylic or enamel previously applied. Using that plate again, we start off with a dollop of black and maybe a dash of brown matt emulsion.



Dry-brushing follows. This is a great technique to bring out detail. The method is simply to pop a small amount of a chosen colour onto a brush, then remove most of it on to kitchen



...you then scrub the brush over the model, and what little paint remaining on the brush will catch on the raised areas. I chose a light grey matt emulsion, though enamel paint is also great, not least as the slower drying time means it can be worked for longer.

CHRIS' TOP TIP: TAKE IT APART

The first job was to dismantle the brake van something that's not always required, but it would make access to some parts of the model easier, especially the veranda area. For this model, pushing the buffer shanks out from behind allows the chassis to pull out. And if a model is easier to handle, it makes the weathering job that bit easier. Some of the underframe detail is quite delicate, so take care.



Workbench expert modellers show you how



Beware of damaging any fine details, such as lamp irons and railings. Next, we go back to our plate and select some of our browns and black from earlier.



Randomly apply variations of browns and black around the underframe and wheels to suggest rust and grease. Be sure to keep the wheel treads and flanges clean, or the paint will invariably end up on the rails.



Using diluted matt black emulsion, a little was added under the roofline and other recessed areas in which soot and general dirt might collect. Lift any excess off with a damp cotton bud if need be.



My weathering on the handrails looked overdone, so I brushed a little diluted white acrylic over to soften the effect. As with most weathering, it's not an exact science and will take a little practice.



I must admit that the white roof of the GWR brake van scared me a little, however there are plenty of photographs online from which to draw inspiration. Some images suggest moss and mould build-up as well as soot and grime.



As earlier in the project, I stippled on a blend of black and brown acrylics, using an almost dry, stiff brush. The reason for acrylic? As before, it means that later water-based emulsion washes won't remove the paint.



With the stippled acrylic now dry (it usually takes a few minutes), a little diluted matt black emulsion is washed over. A useful tip is to add a drop of washing-up liquid, which helps the wash to adhere, especially if the factory finish has a slight sheen.



With a clean and dry soft brush, I gently stippled the wash, using a vertical dabbing action, until it dried. If necessary, wipe the brush clean every so often with a little kitchen towel. The stippling creates subtle, random patterns of grime.



And here we are with the finished result. Notice more dirt has built up around the stove's chimney, as well as the lower edges of the roof, where the dirt, moss and mould would be prone to collecting. When everything is fully dry, the model can be reassembled.

EXPERT TIP

It's a good idea to try out new techniques on something not too treasured or expensive. As with any new



practical endeavour, a little practice is required. Why not cut your modelling teeth on older or cheaper items of rolling stock, picking up pre-owned bargains or, as was the



case here, capitalising on a great value new model. Oxford Rail's various 'OO' wagons are very keenly priced, despite boasting an impressive level of detail.



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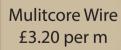


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Workbench - TESTED



George Dent trials the first new Parkside wagon kit since the range was acquired by Peco.

confessed last month to having something of an obsession with building wagons, and the former Parkside Dundas range of plastic kits makes up a large proportion of my 'OO' freight fleet. Now produced by Peco, they have gradually been repackaged into attractive plastic cartons and have found their way into a greater number of model shops, thanks to Peco's increased reach.

This all-new kit was announced some time ago but, thanks to Covid-19, supplies have been intermittent until recently. While the kit's subject appealed to my fixation with mineral wagons, I was also curious to find out how it would compare with Parkside kits from the pre-Peco era.

Unpacking the parts, initial impressions were favourable, with the addition of waterslide transfers being a welcome uplift from pre-Peco days. Produced by Modelmaster UK, the decal sheets provide ready-made number panels for three different wagons, plus a customisable set for further number permutations. There are also SAND and IRON ORE legends, although there are no 'HOP 13' markings for the post-1964 era.

The moulded plastic components looked

PRODUCT Parkside by Peco PC90 BR 13T steel body hopper wagon kit ◆ Price £15.95

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neat and tidy, with impressive definition and relief, while lengths of fine wire and plastic rod are supplied for the handrails and brake cross-shaft. Metal three-hole disc wheels are supplied but, after a few test runs, they were discarded. They don't look too bad, but the wheels supplied with all six of the kits I'd bought were not conducive to smooth running – causing the wagons to 'wobble' when in motion. Parkside kits used to be supplied with high-quality Romford wheels,

although they're currently unavailable.

The instructions feature clear, exploded diagrams which are easy to follow. However, as the following demonstration shows, I found the recommended assembly sequence problematic, owing to some of the hopper components not fitting together perfectly, resulting in unsightly gaps. With the hopper and chassis assembled, it made filling and sanding these gaps tricky. Therefore, after building one wagon as a trial, I've subse-

Wheel matters

The supplied wheels (left) proved to be disappointing, especially in terms of performance. I replaced them with superior Romford 12mm diameter, three-hole disc wheels (right) that I had in stock. Alas, Romford wheels are not currently in production, but a close alternative is available from Peter's



Spares (Ref. PS82). **Tel:** 01642 909794

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What you will need

TOOLS

- Knife and spare blades
- Tweezers
- Steel rule
- Files and abrasives
- Drill and bits
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- Round-nose and fine-nose pliers
- Cocktail sticks
- Small sheet of glass/mirror

Inside story



quently altered the assembly process (demonstrated here), which has made life easier and produced superior results.

GEORGE'S VERDICT

Unless the hopper is moulded as a single unit (which is rare), plastic kits of this type invariably demand a degree of filling and sanding to achieve a seamless appearance. This kit is no different, although the gaps are fairly small and were easy to remedy. The main issue surrounded the need to fettle away a good amount of material from the hopper ends in order to neatly marry up the hopper base and body.

I've already mentioned the disappointing wheels, but the prominent circular recesses in the front faces of the axleboxes also need to be remedied. A few strokes with a flat needle file will remove them.

Negative aspects aside, I have really enjoyed building these kits, especially once the foibles of the moulded parts had been discovered and an alternative approach to assembly adopted. The overall level of detail is impressive, and the finished wagons capture the character of the prototypes admirably.

Offering greater variety to a mineral wagon fleet, the kit represents an important – and well-travelled – prototype. It offers good value, even when factoring in the cost of replacement wheels, with just glue and paints required to finish it off. The decals are great and optional mounting brackets are provided to allow installation of NEM couplings of your choice, making them fully compatible with RTR stock. (GD)

Prototype Factfile: BR 13t Steel Body Hoppers



The Parkside kit portrays a vehicle type that was a common sight in North East England during the later days of BR steam. Designed to move coal from the vast network of collieries within County Durham, Tyneside and Northumberland, the need for a bottom-discharge hopper wagon fleet was dictated by the presence of raised staithes at unloading points around the former North Eastern Railway system.

While a huge fleet of 21t hoppers also existed - and was being expanded during the same period - a smaller capacity version was also deemed necessary, helping to cater for smaller consignments to local coal merchants in more out-of-the-way places.

Over 2,600 of these wagons were built by British Railways, between 1949-1953, although the design is thought to have originated from the LNER's drawing boards. Allotted the BR Diagram numbers 1/142 and 1/144, construction was spread between BR's Shildon Works and various private builders, including Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering. The only real change between the two BR Diagrams was the use of slightly larger wheels on the Dia. 1/144 vehicles, although this was a matter of just half an inch.

All wagons were built with single-sided Morton-pattern hand-operated brakes



An ex-works view of B400520, part of Shildon's second lot of 13T hoppers, built in 1950. Note how the white numbers have been applied directly onto the grey paintwork, without a black panel. This seems to have been a common feature of these wagons. Spoked wheels have been installed. PAUL BARTLETT COLLECTION

Above: Wearing a pale grey livery, albeit pock-marked by corrosion, B401793 was built by R&Y Pickering in 1950. Loaded with coal, the wagon is marshalled next to a vacuum brake-fitted 21T hopper at York Dringhouses Yard, April 1980. PAUL BARTLETT



Part of the first batch of 13T hoppers built at Shildon Works in 1949, B400035 is seen in typical colliery surroundings - and in typical condition during the early 1970s. The wagon appears to be standing on a weighing machine. PAUL BARTLETT

and either spoked or three-hole disc wheels were fitted. Although ostensibly built for the movement of coal, the fleet was soon dispersed to work on other duties, especially iron ore, stone and sand traffic, across various parts of the network. Indeed, examples could be found as far away as Cornwall and a small number of survivors continued in use into the 1980s, mostly centred on Doncaster-York coal traffic. Allocated the HSO code under the Total Operations System (TOPS), very few – if any – wagons ever carried those markings.



Heavily corroded B400891 is a Shildon-built example from 1950, seen in condemned condition at Swindon Works in September 1975. Post-1964 HOP 13 markings have been applied, along with overhead line warning markings to the ends. PAUL BARTLETT

Workbench - TESTED



The Parkside by Peco kit comes supplied in a clear plastic carton and, in addition to the plastic components, also includes a sheet of waterslide decals, thin brass wire, plastic rod, metal wheels and brass top hat bearings.



As with most plastic kits, the parts are best cut away with a set of sprue cutters. Any remaining waste material or moulding flaws can then be removed with a flat file, leaving a flat, square, smooth edge to each part.



Take care with the recesses moulded into the corners of the hopper components, which help with alignment. Dry-fit the hopper on a sheet of glass and check that it all fits together squarely and neatly.



After glueing up the hopper, allow it to cure fully before offering up the hopper base. The parts did not marry up well, with plenty of fettling required. I found it easier to mark and fettle the hopper body than the black base.



Using the marks from the pen as a guide, a small flat needle file was used to taper the sloping hopper ends to accommodate the hopper base. Test-fit the parts at regular intervals until a snug fit is achieved.



After a dry test-fit, the parts were bonded with liquid cement. When dry, filler was applied to the gaps. If these parts are not assembled squarely at this stage, it will affect how the wagon sits on the rails.



When the putty was fully cured, the edges of the hopper were tidied with needle files and thin sanding sticks. This was be much easier without the chassis frames in place, contrary to the kits instructions.



Omitted from the instructions is the need to shape and fit the handrails to the footplates before they're installed. Round-nose pliers shaped the wire, the holes were opened up with a drill. Cyanoacrylate glue made the bonds.



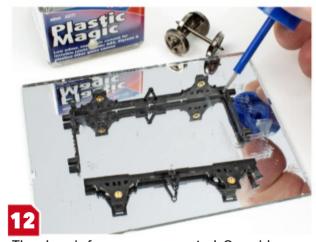
The holes for the bearings may need opening out slightly with a drill bit. Cyano was placed inside the hole with a cocktail stick before the bearings were pushed into place, ensuring that the rims sat flat against the plastic.



The mounting brackets on the inside of the chassis frames need trimming to slot neatly into the hopper base. A sharp knife pared away a millimetre or so from the ends of each bracket.



The front faces of the axleboxes feature deep round moulding flaws, but they can be removed simply by abrading the surfaces with a flat needle file.



The chassis frames were erected. One side was joined to the bufferbeams (ensure the recessed edge of the bufferbeams are oriented to the upper side of the wagon). Check everything sits at right angles before applying the cement.

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Offer up the other side and slot the wheels into the bearings. Check that the chassis frames are sitting squarely on the glass and that the corners are at right angles before applying the cement.



Flip the chassis over and check that all four wheel flanges are in contact with the glass. Make any adjustments if necessary before the cement cures. When happy, set it aside (upturned) to cure for a few hours.



The chassis frame can then be bonded to the hopper, applying the liquid cement from the inside for a neater joint.



It doesn't hurt to check once again on the sheet of glass to ensure all four wheels are in contact with the surface. Assembly can then continue. The chassis end plates instantly add rigidity to the underframe.



With the hopper chute doors fitted, the brake gear can be added, including the hand brake cross-shaft, using the supplied styrene rod. This was glued in place and the ends trimmed flush once the cement had cured.



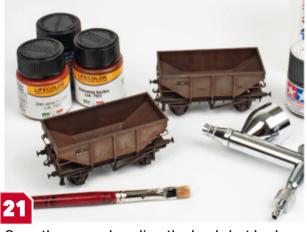
The wire rails and mounting brackets take a bit of time to install. The wire is shaped with round-nose pliers, bonded with cyano, applied with a cocktail stick. Small locating guides are moulded into the hopper sides for the wires.



After priming and painting, the waterslide decals were applied over a coat of gloss varnish. Another coat of varnish sealed the decals in place.



To ensure reliable running, lead shot was secured into the hopper interior with thin cyano glue. Care was taken to ensure each wagon was loaded with the same amount of ballast by employing a set of weighing scales.



Once the cyano bonding the lead shot had cured, the wagons were weathered with a mix of LifeColor and Tamiya acrylic paints. Most of the work was achieved by hand brush, with an airbrush adding some final finesse.



Thick card was cut to act as a base for a load, cut to a length to allow it to sit about 7mm below the upper edge of the hopper. The card was then painted dark brown (black would have been applied if the load was to be coal).



'Iron ore' scatter material, from the Hattons Constructor range (www.hattons.co.uk), was spooned gradually into the wagons and formed into suitable mounds.



The scatter material was secured with Deluxe Materials Ballast Bond. It penetrates the scatter instantly, without disturbing the material. The wagons were placed in a warm environment and the glue required just 24 hours to cure.

Workbench PROFITEED





BUILD TITFIELD STATION

Chris Leigh begins a new modelling project reflecting a topical subject and ready for a forthcoming set of models.

ometimes you have to put the cart before the horse. After all, you need to know how big the cart is in order to buy the right sized horse to pull it. It might seem an odd construction sequence to start a diorama or mini-layout by building the station first. However, with just 4ft by 2ft to play with, and the need to get things looking spot on, I decided that I needed to be able to try out the positioning of the buildings before I laid any track.

As I constructed the station building I researched the subject more closely and realised that, just as the makers of *The Railway Children* had edited features of the Worth Valley railway into a different order to suit their story, (and affected my 'O' gauge layout based on the film) so a similar exercise had been carried out a decade earlier by the makers of the movie that I was now researching.

I have my first Tim Horn 'fully scenic' baseboard to build. This is effectively a 4ft by 2ft box with an open front. I'm told by my colleagues Messrs Dent and Nevard that it is



best to build the module on foamboard first and then fit it into the baseboard. Otherwise, the sides and back of the baseboard module make access difficult. So, I'm going to take their advice and build on foamboard. This, I suspect, will also make it possible to photograph progress from all angles rather than just from the front.

So, I hear you ask, what am I going to build?

ENTER TITFIELD, STAGE RIGHT

I have wanted to build Titfield station, as it appears in the movie *The Titfield Thunderbolt* since long before I assembled the first issue of *Model Rail*, three hundred issues ago. I can't remember when I first saw the movie but I've had a limited edition Dapol '14XX' O-4-2T as No. 1401 for many years. I bought the remnants of two K's 'Lion' kits to see if I could make a working model out of them. Eventually I gave them to one of my

colleagues to see if he could do anything with them. It's so long ago I've forgotten who I gave them to, and with Rapido's ready-to-run Thunderbolt coming next year there is no point in building them.

I have a Rapido set on pre-order, with DCC and sound so I now need something, however small, on which to run it.

My plan is to model Titfield station, in compressed form, from the makeshift engine shed, over the level crossing and through the station. If it works out, a second scenic board could be added with, perhaps, the stream and the water crane, as Reverend Weech calls it. If I needed any further inspiration, the 2021 digital reissue of the movie with computer enhanced colour and focus proved more than enough!

A LITTLE RESEARCH

It is fair to say that my research has been cumulative over the past 30 years since I joined the staff of *Steam World* in 1992. I interviewed the elderly Westbury-based driver, Bert Harris, I think it was, who had

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responsibility for driving *Lion* between his home depot and the filming site each day. As part of *Steam World*'s 'Walk the line' series, I visited Bath and Midford on the Somerset and Dorset and then set off to find Beal's farm and the site of Titfield station. Bizarrely, I'm not sure I've ever seen *Lion* itself. I've never been to Liverpool Museum and *Lion* has been there for many years. "I did once mount the *North Star*, you know, Gooch's 2-2-2 with the double crank driving axle..." Well, actually it was a half-sized wooden replica, but I must stop getting distracted!

The 1905-built GWR station at Monkton Combe was dressed up by the film makers to be Titfield station. The Limpley Stoke to Camerton branch was recently closed to all traffic, so the film company had a free hand in what was done. Some time after filming was finished, the station was demolished and the 'cut' in which it stood was back-filled to once more form an uninterrupted hillside. This became a playing field for the local grammar school.

The only evidence of Titfield station today is the pair of cast iron posts on which the film company built its 'Titfield Station' sign.
These posts now stand ignominiously between a pair of sectional garages with the landscape behind them strangely elevated.

The railways in that area were initially built to capitalise on the Somerset coalfield. It is an area which will be quite well-known to *Model Rail* readers through the efforts of my colleague Chris Nevard whose recent colliery mini-layout was inspired by the Somerset coalfield. Dunkerton colliery was served by the Camerton branch and it was at the colliery that the movie makers staged the duel between the train and Sid James' steamroller.

The lines from Bristol to Radstock and Bristol

to Trowbridge were the main routes. It was not until the early years of the 20th Century that the GWR exploited a light railway order to build a line linking these two routes, via an end-on junction with the Hallatrow-Camerton branch line. At Midford, the light railway passed underneath the Somerset & Dorset line through one arch of the iconic viaduct, and the GWR provided just a small halt there.

The light railway diverged from the Trowbridge route at Limpley Stoke and headed roughly westwards to serve Dunkerton colliery before reaching Monkton Combe, then to Midford, Camerton and Hallatrow. It was short-lived, the passenger service being withdrawn in September 1925, and the last freight to Dunkerton colliery early in 1951. While the line had been utilised by film makers pre-war for filming scenes in *The Ghost Train*, its recent closure to all traffic made it ideal for Michael Balcon's production. The Ealing comedy The Titfield Thunderbolt was inspired by the recent launch of amateur-run railways in the shape of the Talyllyn Railway and the birth of railway preservation societies.

The movie plot is so well known that it does not need repeating here, but to get the best out of what I hope will be a series of articles on my construction of this diorama/minilayout, Simon Castens' book *On the Trail of The Titfield Thunderbolt* (Thunderbolt Books, Bath, £8.95, ISBN: 9781912038992) will be required reading. Simon is unquestionably the greatest living authority on the movie and the locations in which it was shot.

CHANGED GEOGRAPHY

The fictitious village of Titfield is, according to the movie script, the terminus of the oldest branch line in the world and connects the village to the town of Mallingford. The latter is

In the course of a year I get through dozens of knife blades. I use the Swann-Morton No. 10A which was originally a surgeon's scalpel, so even when they are too blunt for modelling they are still sharp. I had been in the habit of putting the spent blade into the wrapper from the replacement and binning it with my rubbish. However, we really should be careful how we dispose of used blades. Here's the simple sharps container that I've made from an empty chutney jar with a small slit punched in the metal lid and a clear label. I can safely store dozens of used blades until the jar is full and then dispose of them in the rubbish in one labelled container.

represented in the movie, by the former fish dock at Bristol Temple Meads station.

However, the closest that Titfield trains get to the main line system, apart from that final scene in the fish dock, is a glimpse of the Camerton branch line's approach to its main line connection at Limpley Stoke. This glimpse is swiftly obscured by the passing of a '63XX' 2-6-0 with several GWR-liveried coaches heading for Bristol.

Throughout the movie, all trains depart Titfield in the direction of Limpley Stoke. The end of the line is marked by the makeshift engine shed created by placing a hay barn over the line beyond the level crossing at the Camerton end of the station. In fact, however, quite a lot of the filming of trains supposedly en route between Titfield and Mallingford was actually done on the section towards Camerton and particularly around Midford, where the line's scenic crossing with the Somerset & Dorset under Midford Viaduct is exploited.

Anyone building a Titfield-inspired layout would need to decide from the outset whether to model the geography as it actually was, or whether to place the various scenic features in the order in which they appear in the film. I had to make a similar choice with my 'O' gauge Oakworth as it appears in *The Railway Children*. In that instance it proved helpful in order to provide a suitable approach to the fiddleyard at the north end of the station, to relocate Mytholmes tunnel and the 'Three Chimneys' farm house.

TITFIELD STATION BUILDING

Despite all the research, I was eager to make a start on some actual modelling, not least because I had suffered a degree of modeller's block for a couple of months. I simply found it much more enjoyable to sit and vegetate in front of the TV rather than getting stuck into model-making, and I could not afford to let that last for long.

Like many branch lines, the Limpley
Stoke-Camerton line has been the subject of
a dedicated history book, *The Camerton*Branch by Colin G. Maggs and

Workbench PRO-



Gerry Beale, 1985 Wild Swan Publications, ISBN: 9780906867259. Published in 1985, it is long out of print, with second-hand copies seemingly commanding about £40. I used the drawings from this book as templates for cutting out the timber framework of the station, so it is important to have access to a copy and an A4-size scanner if you wish to copy my method of construction.

Built in the early years of the 20th Century the buildings at Limpley Stoke, Dunkerton and Monkton Combe share a family likeness. Harking back to my article on the Dornoch model (MR288) I would call the design 'arts and crafts' as it dates from the right period and reflects simple and basic facilities given a pleasing appearance by some minimalist decoration. In this case the wooden frame is exposed so that the building appears to be a traditional structure but using 'artificial stone' infill panels between the frames. This artificial stone was simply textured concrete, and the panels were probably made at the GWR's Taunton concrete works.

At Monkton Combe, the exposed wall at the Camerton end must have suffered some problems because the GWR had soon covered it with asbestos sheeting. For the purposes of the movie this, in turn, was concealed, apparently by plywood and some fake framing. The roof at this end was also extended by the film company to provide a covered platform entrance, complete with saw-tooth valancing, which was an embellishment that was added all round the canopy.

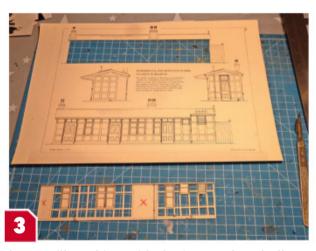
The drawings in the book represent the buildings as designed and are taken from contractors drawings. They are intended for modellers and are, helpfully, reproduced in 4mm:1ft scale. However, they are somewhat fussy for modelling use, with superfluous tufts of grass depicted and with useful detail hidden by the canopy. One set of drawings has also been used to depict two different stations, Monkton Combe and Dunkerton, and since one is a mirror image of the other this can be confusing. It caught me out with a couple of the details. Indeed, I did quite a lot of work on the rear elevation before I realised that it was a mirror image of what I was intending.

As the rear of the building will be largely hidden by the grass bank I could probably have got away with it but I knew it would bug me, so I scrapped the work I had done up to that point and started again. The main problem with the back being 'wrong-handed' is that the vent for the gents toilet would then be at the wrong end. GWR station buildings were usually arranged with the ladies' and gents' toilets adjacent in order to simplify plumbing and drainage. The gents' toilet would be entered by an outside door from the platform and the ladies', from inside the ladies' waiting room.

Another feature of this design was the need to minimise the timber framing in the area where there were chimneys. These would probably have been metal stovepipes from the typical GWR Courtier stoves. There were single ground-to-eaves concrete panels below both chimneys.



I used the scale drawings as a short-cut to save redrawing all the framing onto card. I scanned the page of drawings and printing them onto a sheet of cream-coloured A4 postcard. The front and one end represent Monkton Combe.



I was still working with the 'wrong-handed' back. I left the windows in place as a guide for cutting once the frame was mounted on card. The two panels marked 'X' were cut last as they help maintain the framework's integrity.



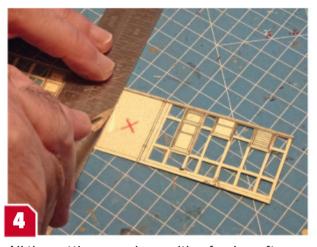
It is important to paint the frame at this stage, though the wet paint does make it very fragile. This is the 'front' or platform side of the building before glueing to a 2mm mount board wall.



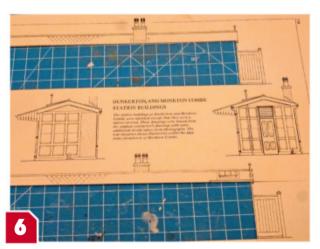
The wrong-handed back has been painted and the windows cut out. I realised that the toilet vent would be at the wrong end, but this would be hidden once the model was in place. Nevertheless, I scrapped it.



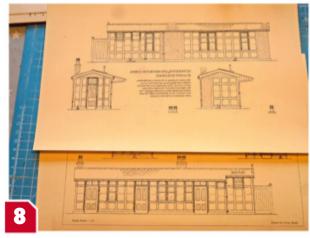
I cut out all the panels just leaving the framing and the doors and windows. I had yet to realise that this elevation was a mirror image and that I should have flipped the drawing and printed a second copy for the back and the second end.



All the cutting was done with a fresh craft knife blade and a steel rule, working on a self-healing cutting mat. Though this was an early sectional building, it had a wooden frame and numerous varied panel sizes.



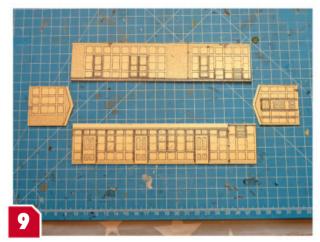
The right-hand end elevation is the correct one. The left-hand one needs to be flipped. It matters little, as the GWR had covered this end with corrugated asbestos sheet and the film company covered that with painted plywood.



By flipping the drawing horizontally on the computer I obtained a correctly orientated back and end. Though I had wasted some effort in doing it wrong, getting it right more than compensated.

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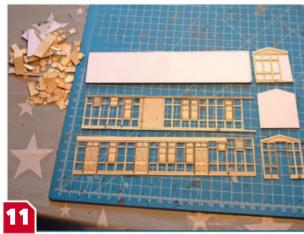




By laying out the parts like this it is easy to see that the back is now correct, with the vents for the ladies' and gents' toilets both at the same end of the building. The ladies' toilet would be accessed from inside the waiting room.



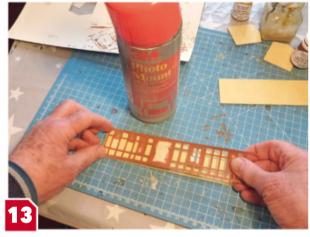
I thought the cutting out might be a lot more tedious than it actually was and despite the initial mistake with the wrong-handed rear wall, it still proved to be a satisfying project.



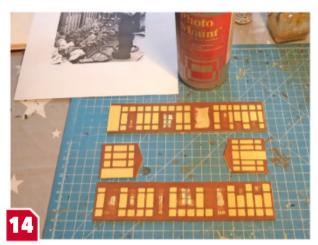
All the drawn doors, windows and vents were left in place and four walls were cut from 2mm mount board. The long walls would be set between the two gable ends.



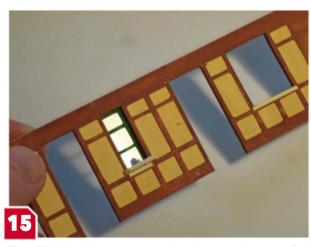
I used Omen Miniatures acrylic paints, applied with a small flat-bladed brush. The mount board walls were painted in cream and the postcard frames were painted brown.



Once the paint was dry, the backs of the frame pieces were sprayed with 3M Photo Mount adhesive and carefully positioned on the painted mountboard, pressing down only once it was correctly positioned.



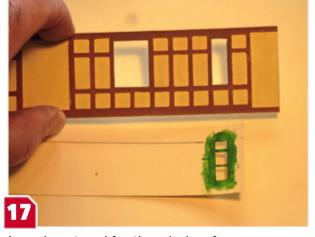
By laying out the four walls in their relative locations, with the top edges head-to-head, it is easy to check whether you've got them correct in terms of the relationship of the vents, all at the same end.



The film-makers removed a door and part of the adjacent wall, which I did not discover until it was too late. They adapted one window with a 'mousehole' glass for the ticket window, as shown here.



Using a sharp blade and my trusty steel rule I cut out the window openings completely as single pieces. The louvred toilet vents were also cut out at this time and the exposed edges were painted.



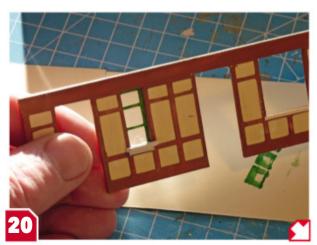
I used postcard for the window frames, marking each one to fit its specific aperture. The film company painted the frames green. I used Omen acrylic green.



The larger windows had a more complex frame and I made these as two layers of postcard. The thinner outer frame, painted brown here, is glued in place first, with the green, thicker frame behind it.



Once the walls were complete with glazing and obscured glass (tracing paper glued behind the lower panes) I began assembly round a 185mm by 40mm mount board floor.



The ticket window appears quite prominently in the movie when Mr Blakeworth buys his ticket. I used styrene strip for the counter and cut a 'mousehole' in the 10thou glazing material.

Workbench PROJECT





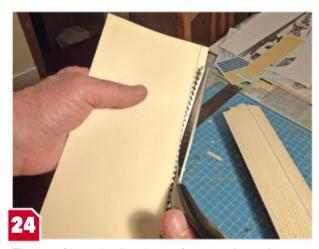
The doors were made up from three layers of postcard, one forming the frame and the other two the door and lower panels. The frame was painted before glueing in place, and the toplight was glazed.



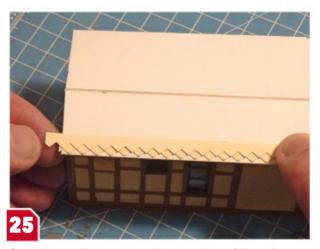
At this point I began thinking about the roof with its unusual diamond-shaped tiles or slates. I bought a pair of dressmaker's pinking shears with a 5mm pitch, £8.99 from Amazon. Don't borrow these from a dressmaker!



The floor needed rebating on the front edge to clear the doors, before the front wall was glued in place. I used Javis' Velo-Set quickdrying PVA for all the assembly.



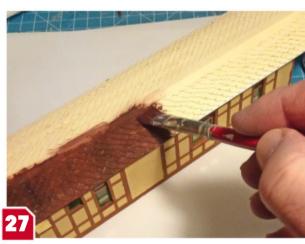
The roof is a single piece of mount board, scored and folded along the ridge. I ruled some guidelines on postcard and used the pinking shears to cut pairs of strips, as seen here.



Starting at the eaves edge, strips of the slates were glued in place, carefully staggered, point-to-point. It was remarkably quick and effective, requiring only some 16 strips for the larger roof section.



The strips must be carefully aligned, and the straight edges kept parallel with the eaves and ridge. Work up to the ridge from both sides and finish off with a straight-edged ridge strip, creased along its centre-line.



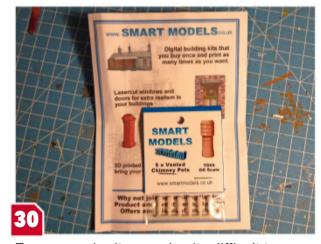
I painted the roof thinking that the tiles were probably similar to those on my previous model building, Bratton Fleming. Subsequent discovery of some colour photographs of Limpley Stoke station showed they were grey!



I found a strip of stained hardwood in my spares box from which I made the rafter ends under the awning. A strip of 1/16in balsa or some suitably sized styrene strip would be equally suitable.



Using the scale drawing as a guide to the dimensions, I cut two chimney stacks, one single and one double, from a block of balsawood. The bottom was carefully cut at an angle to match the roof slope.



To my surprise it proved quite difficult to source some louvred chimney pots, as used by the GWR on stations, staff houses and signal boxes. These 3D-printed ones, from Smart Models, are spot-on.



I painted the chimney pots cream while still on the sprue as this was the normal colour for GWR chimney pots. The stacks were gently drilled 1/16in diameter to take the mounting spigot.



I added folded paper strips around the chimney base to represent flashing, having first painted the chimney stack to represent concrete using Omen acrylic 'mortar'.

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Real world inspiration



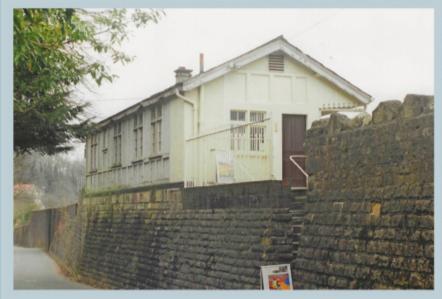
Above: A passenger train headed by a '517' class 0-4-2T at Monkton Combe, probably around 1920. The original end wall of the building can be seen, together with standard GWR iron railing fencing, which was replaced with timber for the movie. C.J.L. COLLECTION

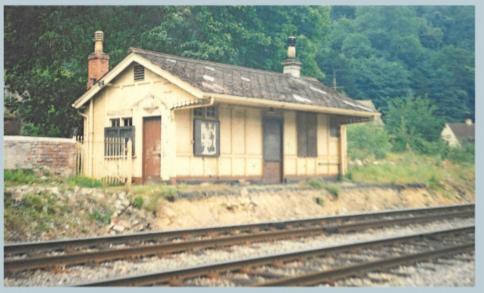
Right: Monkton Combe station in 1947, just four years before the film crew took over. The GWR spear fencing is still present. The telegraph poles were removed by the time of the movie, wooden fencing was installed and some superb platform gardens laid out. C.J.L. COLLECTION

Below: The only surviving building of the same type is the former Limpley Stoke station. This 1990s view gives a glimpse of the rear elevation. CHRIS LEIGH

Below right: Limpley Stoke station shows many of the features of Monkton Combe, including the timber framing, concrete panels, diamond-pattern roof covering and classic GWR louvred chimney pots.







Know your stuff

This is where our team of experienced modellers answer YOUR questions. Email your queries about railways - real or model - to modelrail@bauermedia.co.uk



George Dent MR's editor and chief model maker can offer advice on almost any subject.



Peter Marriott
Rumour has it that
MR's resident scenery
buff even uses a GrasMaster on his own
front lawn...



Professional model maker who's been there, done that and got the T-shirt!



Chancellor
Paul is the proprietor
of the well-known
railway photographic
archive Colour Rail.



HOW TO

USE WAGON BODIES AS UNUSUAL BUFFERSTOPS



I have couple of box vans that have been damaged and wondered about other uses for them. Grounded vans in farm fields is an obvious option, but is there something more unusual I can replicate? Ali Singh, by email

George says: As you say, redundant wagon bodies were re-purposed in their thousands as field shelters, stores or sheds for many years, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. There are some great examples close to my home, with a couple converted into a very pretty potting shed and garage. They weren't always employed by farmers, though. The railways retained many for use in goods yards, depots or as makeshift staff and passenger accommodation at branch line stations.

Many were given new homes at industrial locations, while some can still be found in urban centres, such as the lovely pair of ex-North
Staffordshire Railway van bodies still to be found in the centre of Ashbourne,
Derbyshire. In many cases, the van bodies may be modified, with extra doorways, windows or partitions. They may also have been joined with other former rail vehicles or integrated into the fabric of a building.

But if you're looking to model something a little different, how about replicating the scene at Machynlleth, on the former Cambrian line from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth? For many years, a pair of ex-GWR iron-bodied vans could be found in use as makeshift bufferstops in the goods yard.

I recall seeing images of these van bodies some years ago, in a magazine article. Presumably, the empty bodies were filled with earth or spoil to provide extra mass, while timber



The base of the chassis was then tidied with a broad, flat file. The buffers were also cut away and the headstocks filed flush. Dapol offer the gunpowder van body as an unpainted moulding, but it lacks the chassis base, which is essential.



baulks were fixed to one end to act as a bufferbeam.

Alas, I can't find any details of the publication and my online searches have drawn a blank, so I'm not sure of the exact type of wagons employed or the definitive period in which they were installed. I'm also unsure whether those timber baulks were fitted with pairs of scrap wagon buffers. However, despite the lack of reference images, the idea of replicating this arrangement has been simmering in the back of my mind for years. Thanks to this query, I've finally had the excuse to give it a try. Perhaps a Model Rail reader can help with an image or reference, to prove that I haven't imagined the whole thing?!



Thanks to the recent arrival of Rapido's GWR gunpowder vans, my fleet of aged Dapol models now look rather basic in comparison, making them prime candidates for re-purposing. This pre-weathered version reduces the amount of work required.



A couple of strips of wood were cut to match the width of the wagon's body. Notches were also cut to give clearance for the raised ribbing of the body. After test-fitting, they were glued to the body with cyanoacrylate adhesive.





Having removed the couplings and excellent metal wheels for reuse, a razor saw was used to cut away the axle guards, brake gear and coupling mounts. The waste material is worth keeping for future use as junk or scrap in a railway yard or wagon load.



While the wagon was pre-weathered, the clean wood needed some help to blend in, so a couple of coats of a brown/grey oil-based weathering wash was sufficient to give it an aged appearance, without disguising the natural grain pattern and texture.



HOW TO

IMPROVE PCA TANKS



The depressed centre PCA cement tanks, produced by Lima and Hornby in the past, are key wagons for my new micro layout. I want to add extra detail to them, as the models must date back a few decades.

What parts would you recommend? Kit Harrington, via Instagram

George says: These wagons were popular at the time of their initial release, as they featured an impressive level of detail for the time (1980s). However, set against contemporary rolling stock, their heritage does become apparent. I'd recommend upgrading the buffers with sets of cast metal Oleo units, available from Wizard Models. The moulded plastic units will need cutting away and the headstocks filed flush, which will remove the unsightly mould seam at the same time. Mounting holes will need to be marked out carefully and drilled to allow the new buffers to be installed securely (fix with epoxy or cyanoacrylate glue).

A useful detail upgrade kit is available from PH Designs, including replacement etched metal walkways for the tank tops, plus handrail brackets, brake handwheels (to replace the hefty plastic mouldings) offers, plus a set of brake disc inserts. Some 0.4mm brass wire is required to form the handrails.

Rendered in nickel silver, the etched parts are easy to shape and are fairly rugged once assembled and installed. After cutting away the unwanted plastic fittings, the mould seams on the tank can be gently filed and sanded smooth before the new parts are added. Subsequent weathering will disguise any loss of paint.

We reviewed this detail kit way back in MR201 (October 2014), but the kits are still available to order from the PH Designs website. **Product:** PH4PCA1 PCA wagon etched replacement

walkways and detail set **Price:** £4.50 (plus £2.75 p&p)

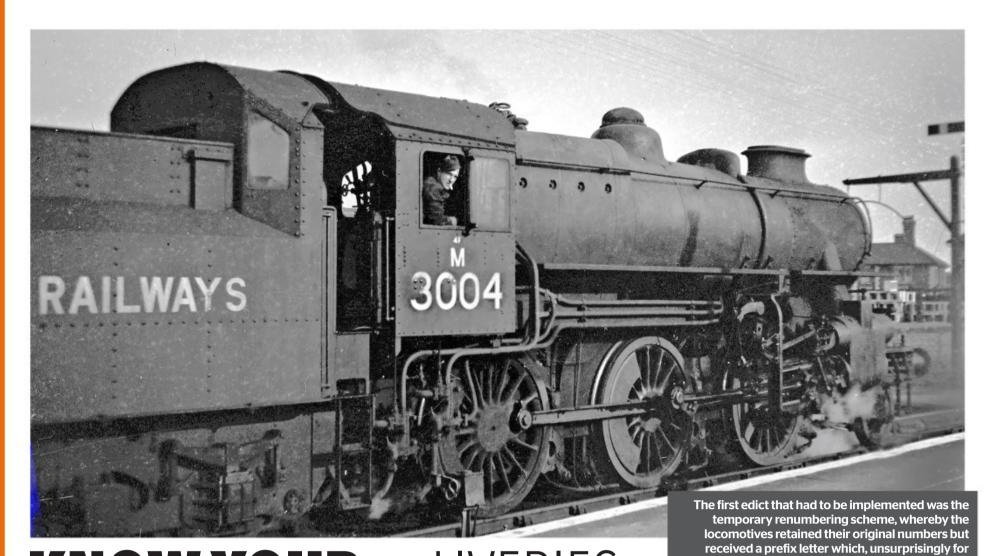
Availability: www.phd-design-etchings.co.uk

1066

Product: ABWCO26A Oleo long body buffers with

16in diameter heads

Price: £2.40 per pack of 16 **Availability:** *www.wizardmodels.ltd*



KNOW YOUR... LIVERIES

PART 6: BR Midland Region - the early years.

Paul Chancellor delves into the archives to chart the transition period between the former LMS and a unified British Railways corporate identity.

hose painting locomotives at the start of the British Railways era should get a prize for the number of variations that they could produce when, in theory, they had received detailed instructions from HQ on how they should proceed in applying a new corporate image across the locomotive fleet.

However, as has been seen in so many walks of life, what appeared to be fine in theory turned out to have many challenges when staff were confronted with all the different shapes and sizes of locomotive. Combine that with the need to apply new numbers faster than engines were receiving full works attention, and the result was a complex mixture of fonts and sizes with differences even within classes. The situation was exacerbated further if more than one works was involved in maintaining a particular class, as they each invariably put their own stamp on things. Here we see how stock from the erstwhile London, Midland & Scottish (LMS) Railway fared in the first couple of years of British Railways.

Ex-LMS engines featured in BR's program of livery evaluation, with blue applied to a 'Duchess' while a Stanier '5MT' could no longer be called a 'Black Five' after a coat of Brunswick green paint. However, the stand-out - and probably completely impractical - bright green was applied to a 'Jubilee' and 'Patriot', the latter class being illustrated here with No. 45531 gleaming amid the grime at Derby in 1948. Unsurprisingly, this scheme was not selected for wider use. COLOUR RAIL



the Midland, was 'M'. The Ivatt '4MTs' were being built as the LMS turned to BR(M) and thus were some of the small number of locomotives that did actually receive the 'M' prefix. The size of the prefix

was larger than seen elsewhere, but so was the size of the cabside numbers applied to No. 3004 in a

non-standard font. 'British Railways' is emblazoned large upon the tender in this view, taken in April 1948.

The renumbered locomotives also received a cast 'M' prefix to their smokebox numberplate in most cases.

F. HORNBY/COLOUR RAIL

Above: In a matter of weeks, the full BR numbering scheme was announced, requiring 40,000 to be added to most former LMS stock numbers. A few engines previously numbered above 20,000 received completely new numbers. The LMS express passenger livery of the 1940s was lined black, and No. 46253 was at Crewe Works for remedial work that did not justify a complete repaint. Accordingly, the new number was applied to the cab sides, while the tender retained the LMS branding for now. Gone was the four-figure smokebox numberplate, yet a replacement five figure version had not been fitted at this time. COLOUR RAIL





Left: No doubt many engines received the 'new look' at a shed rather than going to a works specifically to have the job done. One of the former North London Railway O-6-OTs No. 58859 (LMS No. 27522) displays one of the tank engine varieties of 'half a job' with its new number beside LMS lettering. COLOUR RAIL

Below: The application of the full 'British Railways' legend and standard size numbers posed some problems. Here, Johnson Class 1F No. 41708 is in its new livery. Note that the numerals are smaller than the tank-side letters, seen in February 1950. With other classes, this was reversed, with larger numbers and smaller letters, even though there seems to be space to use a matching size! COLOUR RAIL

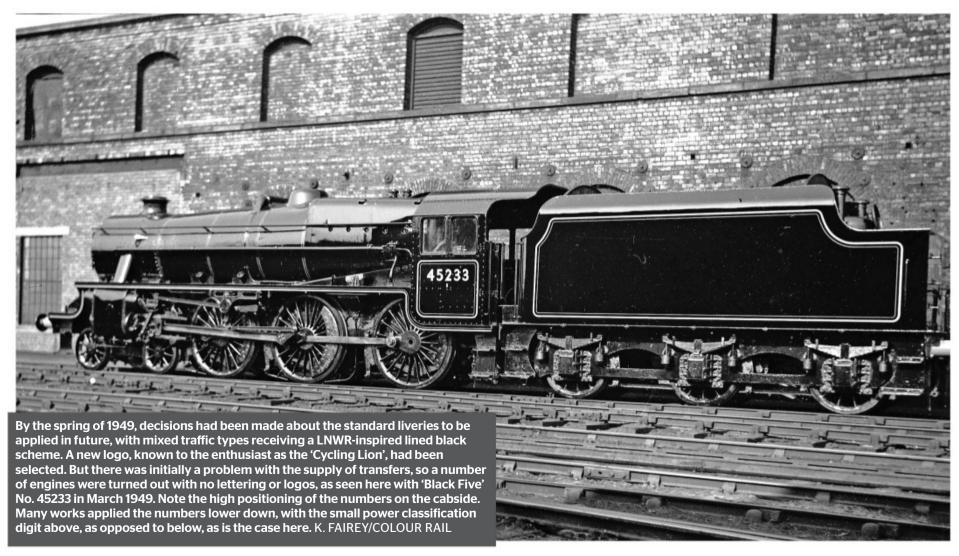




Above: Applying a number to the bunker of some classes was nigh-impossible. The ex-North London 'Dock Tanks' are an example. While No. 58859 carried the number and LMS branding side by side on the tank, No. 58861's number is below the BR lettering, as seen on October 7 1949. L.F. FOLKARD/COLOUR RAIL

Right: Some shed staff and enginemen took pride in their steeds and staff at Glasgow certainly took care of ex-LMS Fairburn 2-6-4T No. 42165, resplendent in the correctly applied, lined, mixed traffic black livery. It sports some extra touches and is seen at Glasgow Central in June 1950. The engine was approaching three years in service. T. OWEN/COLOUR RAIL





Motes from the Workshop DAVE LOWERY'S TOP TIPS

CREATING LAB 6

BR's Research Department converted a Mk 1 carriage into an electrical systems test car in the mid-1970s, with the work being carried out at Swindon Works. Designed to carry a pantograph in order to test overhead line equipment (OHLE), the interior featured a conference area, kitchen, generator compartment and workshop.

To create an 'O' gauge rendition of this important prototype, I used a Heljan Mk 1 SK brake coach as a starting point. I had to cut and lower the roof section to accommodate a pantograph. It's a fairly simple operation, but I needed to use quite a few tools to do it.

As with an awful lot of model railway projects, the best reference we have is a set of photographs – side-on views if you are very lucky. Usually, however, the images are three-quarter shots, which are not always easy to work from.

There is a degree of 'modeller's licence' with any project and that allows us to get it as right as we can. Of course, if you have a drawing, well, that is just a luxury!

Using the side elevation photo of the coach, mark off where the cuts need to be made to lower the roof, using the positions of the windows as a reference point. Having marked the locations – and before cutting – you need to fill in the base with plastic card to strengthen the roof, which will be weakened once you cut out the lowered part.

Having glued the plastic card in place, it was left to cure fully overnight. Only when you're happy that it's solid, take a razor saw and cut the angled cuts at each end down to the new plastic card base.

I then used a slitting saw blade in a small electric drill to make the longitudinal cuts

along both sides. Now file back to the marked lines and clean up any edge swarf. Check at various points that the cut is square to the roof base with a set square.

I fashioned and shaped a piece of brass to make the observation window and a plain piece of brass for the blank end of the roof. Once they had been filed to shape and installed, any gaps were filled and the surfaces sanded smooth before the roof was primed, ready to receive the topcoats of paint.

Superfluous bodyside detail, such as hinges from sealed-up doors, were removed with an end-milling bit in an electric drill.



The model was marked off where the cuts needed to be made for the conversion, using photographs for reference.



Having cut and fixed plastic card to the inside of the roof, the cuts could be made without weakening the roof and risking breakage.



A slitting disc was mounted in an electric mini drill to make the longitudinal cuts along the roof of the coach, working well onto the waste side.



A set square was used to check that the cuts were at right angles to the sides. When happy, the excess plastic was filed away, down to the plastic card base, checking that the edges were straight and true at regular intervals.



I fashioned a piece of brass sheet to fill the sloping apertures in the roof. One of these would require observation windows cutting out and these were achieved with drills and a slitting disc - watch those fingers! Working over a scrap of hardwood allows the brass to be supported and absorbs the pressure from the drill and cutting disc.



With the brass fillets installed, any gaps were filled with putty and the roof given a good rub down with fine abrasives, prior to the primer coats.



With the painting stages complete, the flat roof section is almost ready to receive the pantograph.

HOW TO

MODEL SIMPLE LOW-RELIEF BUILDINGS

0

I'm looking to build up a backscene, featuring various low-relief factory or industrial buildings. Can you recommend

any suitable - and cheap - kits that are easy to assemble? My layout is 20ft long, so I'll need quite a few of them! Gill Evans, by email



Peter says: If you have a large area to cover, it's worth considering the type of card kits you can print yourself. Brands like Scalescenes (www.scalescenes.com) offer a variety of kits, in 'N' and 'OO' gauges, which can be downloaded and printed at home. The great thing is, you pay once and can print as many copies of the kits as you like. Only the extra cost of paper, card, glue and ink for your printer need to be factored into your budget.

Another, similar option was offered by Noch, in the form of various building kits stored on a CD. Again, the kits could be printed from your computer as many times as necessary, for just the one-off purchase price. I recently discovered that Noch no longer produces these kits, although the German company that originally made the kits for Noch has since expanded its own range of low-relief building kits alongside a huge range of quality backscenes. That



manufacturer is JOWI, and the range of kits now includes office blocks and modern apartments, as well as a variety of industrial-themed buildings and backscenes. Although aimed primarily at the European market, many of the building styles would also look at home on a UK layout. Being rendered in 'HO' means that they're slightly smaller than 'OO', which can be effective when forcing the perspective slightly, making objects appear further away than they actually are. Furthermore, the kits are also offered in 'TT'

Product: Jowi CD 014 Small Industry **Cost:** €20.12 plus postage **Availability:**

www.modellbahn-hintergrund-shop.de

and 'N' gauges, offering even more potential.

Some of the JOWI CDs also come with an appropriate panorama background plus a neutral cloud sky, which measures up to two metres in length depending on the selected scale, so they offer good value.



After popping the CD into my computer, I printed out the kit components on my colour inkjet printer, using regular (200gsm) white paper. The kits can be printed as many times as you like, which allows for endless customisation.



The quality of the appearance depends on the capabilities of your printer, but even a bog-standard inkjet machine can produce acceptable results. Printing each kit a number of times allows various parts to be cut and overlaid to improve the sense of relief.



The individual parts were cut with a sharp scalpel and steel rule, on a cutting mat. It's worth colouring the exposed white edges of the paper with matching shades of felt-tip pens. Note the doorway and other parts that have been cut form a second, identical print out.



The extra parts, designed to add extra relief, were laminated onto a sheet of 3mm card, fixing in place with a glue stick. The parts can then be carefully cut out.



The base layer was also laminated onto 3mm card. To cover the area, I brushed out a thin layer of Deluxe Materials Speed Bond adhesive. As it became tacky, the paper was placed over the card and any ripples gently pressed out.



When the glue had dried, the extra layers were installed, including the main doorway, stone plinths, gutters and windowsills. The improvement over the flat original print is substantial.

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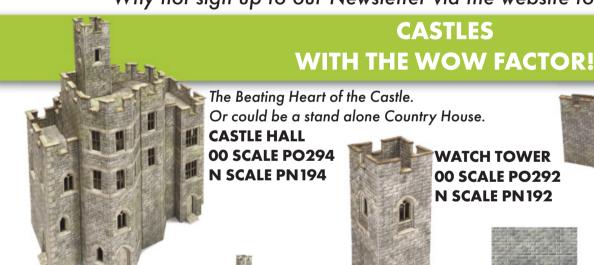


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'N' GAUGE LAYOUT **PORTMAURWIN**

here are three words on the cover of every issue of *Model Rail*: 'innovative', 'in-depth' and 'independent'. Then, on the contents page, there's another: 'inspiration'. Within the pages we produce every 28 days we aim to provide you with photographs and articles designed to get your creativity flowing. It's lovely, therefore, to see layouts inspired by projects we've previously featured. Readers will remember Chris Sykes and his 'Amberfield' layout from MR296, and now he's back with another 'N' gauge layout inspired

by Chris Nevard's Cornish commission to Kernow Model Rail Centre.

"I loved that layout and wanted the Kernow exclusive 37207 *William Cookworthy* in BR blue with Cornish Railways branding that suited it, but I wouldn't have been able to run it on 'Amberfield' because of the different eras, so I had to put the whole idea to the back of my mind. Then, when Scalescenes released a half-relief kit of a china clay works the plan came back to fruition and I remembered Chris' article (MR260). Like many of us, I was left with a lot of spare time



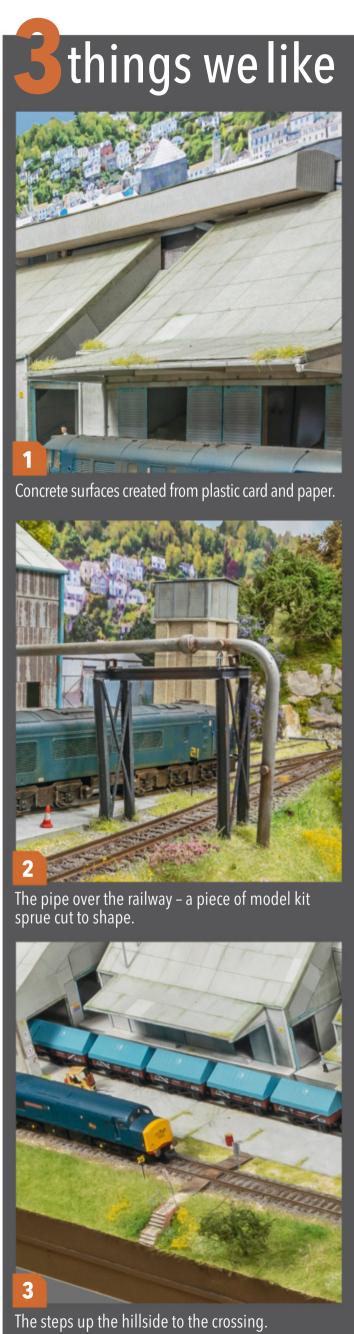
recently and decided to build a much smaller layout than 'Amberfield', that I could build in a few months and on which I could focus more on the detail."

This attention to detail includes everything from the weathering of the buildings to the track, which Chris says is an upgrade from previous builds.

"At 'Portmaurwin' I elected to use Peco Code 55 track instead of the Code 80 I'd used before. As this was a small layout (3ft 4in by 8in) I could afford to try something different, knowing that it wouldn't be an expensive mistake if I decided I didn't like it.

The backscene is a collection of photographs Chris has taken from Google Street View, taking screenshots from various locations. The backscene is bits of Looe and other towns in that area merged together. As in real life, the layout seems as though the town is above everything else and the railway is down by the water's edge.





79



In the end, I wish I'd done 'Amberfield' with Code 55 as it looks so much more realistic than Code 80! When you add in the details such as the grass between the sleepers (another trick I got from Mr Nevard) it really starts to come alive!

But more on the details later. Built on a modular baseboard, 'Portmaurwin' is based around a Cornish china clay works in 1986-87, Chris' era of railway history.

"I grew up with the blue diesels so it was only natural that I'd want to build a layout involving them. The Kernow exclusive model and the Scalescenes kit became the perfect partnership for a modelling scene and so I almost fell into producing a china clay works. At the



'N' GAUGE LAYOUT **PORTMAURWIN**





follow the instructions you'll end up with usable rocks that just need painting and weathering. Once the Plaster of Paris has set you can assemble it like a drystone wall and paint accordingly. I aimed to replicate the rusty streak that you find on the prototype and discovered that the paint has to be quite runny to soak into the plaster. I'm so pleased that I gave it another go though as my second attempt is much more realistic than the first."

It wasn't all plain sailing though, and Chris' desire to include small details meant that on occasion, his patience was tested

"There are two tanks on the left-hand side of 'Portmaurwin' which are Scalescenes kits that I've had to kit-bash to make fit. Firstly, adding a slope to match the roof involved a lot of patience to get right. As many modellers know, you can take more off but once it's gone, it's gone. Patience was the key to ensuring a snug fit. Then it came to adding the railings. These were extremely small and very fiddly, and I found myself pulling my hair out on several occasions.

"Attention to detail was the main aim with this layout and it was a case of 'look at the real thing and pick off what I could see that was available on the market and wouldn't make it too busy'. One feature is a lone traffic cone. There's one on every layout I've built, almost like my trademark."

Chris is hoping that the small size of 'Portmaurwin' will allow him to take it on the exhibition circuit, so keep an eye out for layouts with a lone traffic cone on them – you might just be looking at a Sykes! M

FACTFILE: 'PORTMAURWIN'

Gauge and scale: 2mm:1ft, 9mm scale, 'N'

Size: 3ft 4in by 8in wide
Track: Peco Code 55

rack: reco Code 55

Time to build: Five months

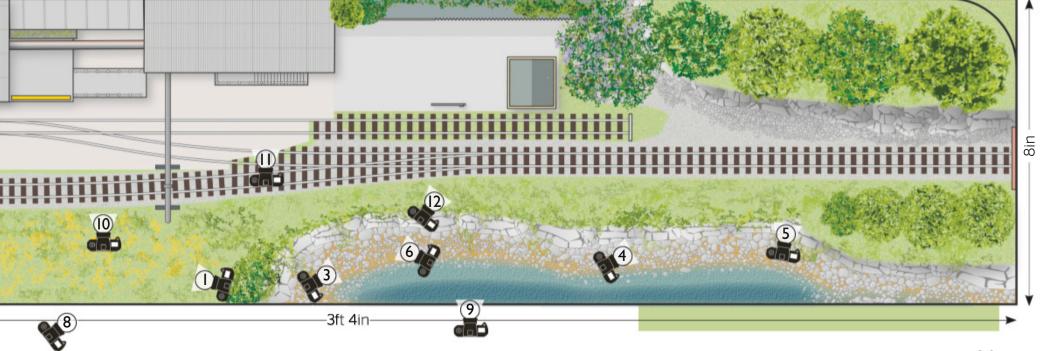
Power and control: Analogue



MODELLER CV: CHRIS SYKES

If I'm not working on the layout, I enjoy walking disused railway lines around

the country and gardening, which can become a full-time job in the summer trying to keep the garden looking nice!



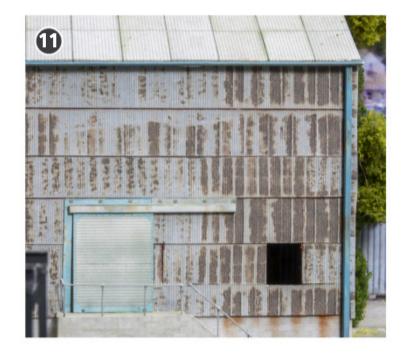
'N' GAUGE LAYOUT **PORTMAURWIN**





The estuary has been created using a basecoat of green, brown and blue acrylic paint. Several coats of acrylic varnish were then applied and a final layer of Modge Podge, which Chris saw used in *Model Rail*, to create the ripples.







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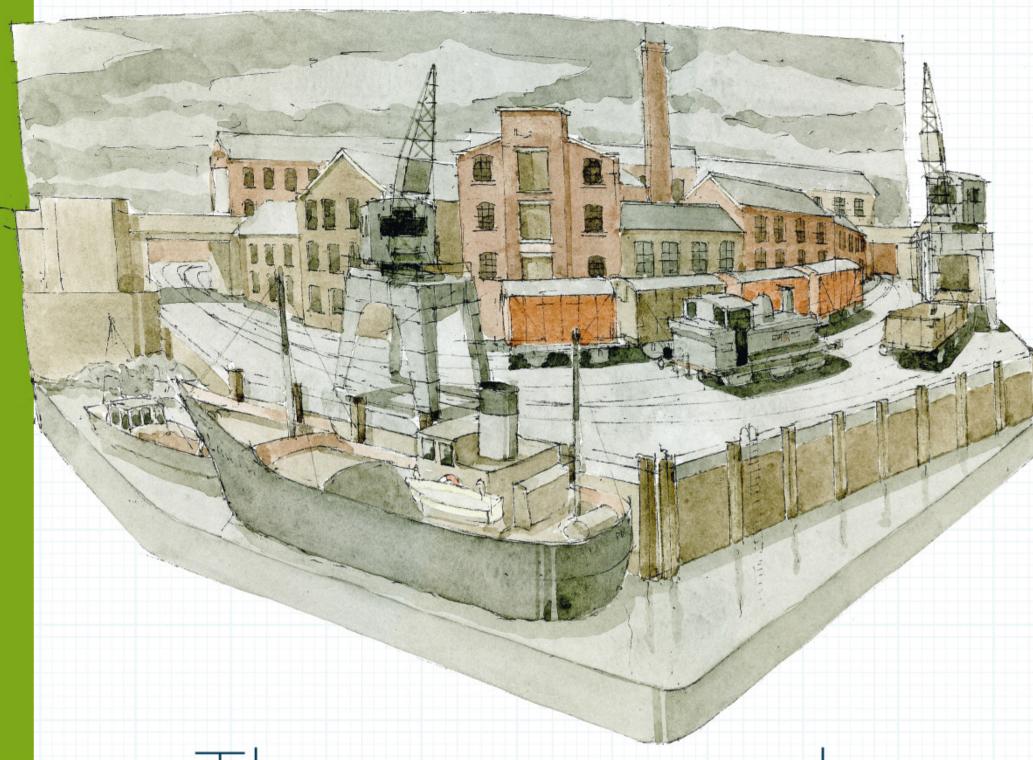




Masterplan Inspiration

Track plans to get you thinking in three dimensions





Then, now and BEY/OND

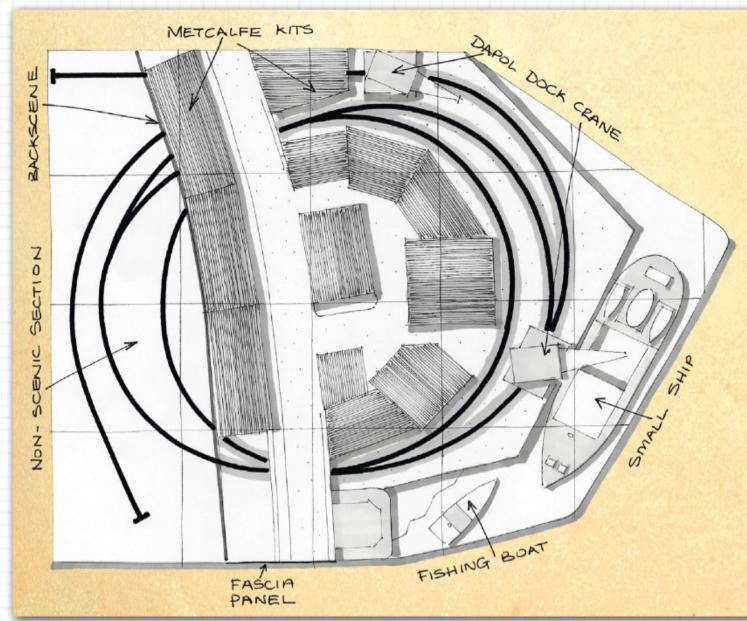
Paul A. Lunn takes a look at how layout planning and design has changed through the years... and ponders what the future may hold.

Artwork & photography: Paul A. Lunn

t's fitting, in our 300th anniversary issue, to take a retrospective look at layout planning and design, examining early developments, current practice and future prospects. Space won't allow me to include everyone worthy of recognition – Roy Link, David Jenkinson, Iain Rice, Chris Nevard – but I've included a selection of

leading lights who have influenced my own efforts.

Many of these individuals, with overlapping timespans, have certainly influenced each other and while there are brief accounts here, relevant especially to design and planning, their full stories can be found tucked in among text and plans in their own publications.



This Weymouth-inspired circuit is a collection of what, for me, are the best features in any compact design. It's organic, with little or no track running parallel to the baseboard edge, dramatic terracing from the river, rising towards the backscene, with forced perspective towards the rear. Circuits are particularly useful, over a shelf layout of the same length, particularly in this case for boat trains.

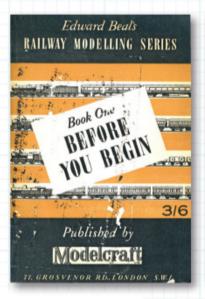
My plans are rarely completely finished and every time I revisit, some sort of refinement comes to mind. In this case I'd swing the siding, bottom left, out towards the edge of the layout creating space between it and the outer loop, right, you could then add another siding, from the loop, running parallel to the siding previously moved.

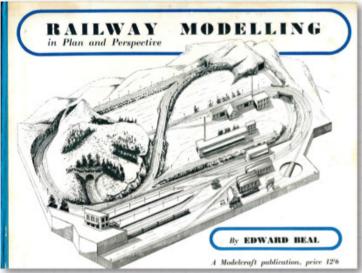
ROOTS

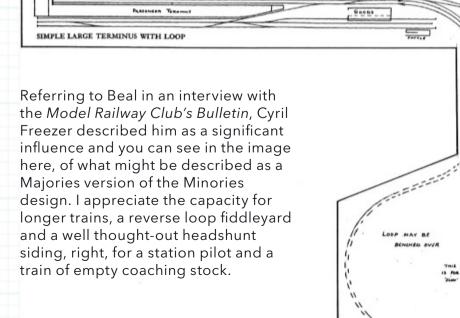
Edward Beal, 1889-1985

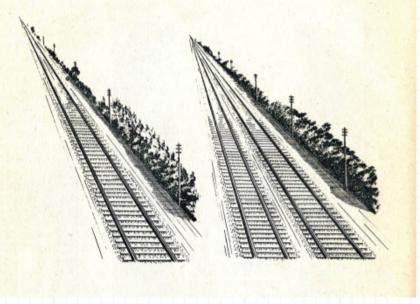
Beal's skill for sharing ideas has been 'preserved' in an excellent range of books. This collection of track plans, some North American in interpretation, are outstanding. His priority for modelling was an "understanding of railway practice, commencing with a predetermined 'must-have' list and mindfully considered to suit available space."

He was much admired for his 'West Midland Railway', which was frequently revised and rebuilt. More operationally effective than scenically outstanding, it was not as ground-breaking as John Ahern's 'Madder Valley'.





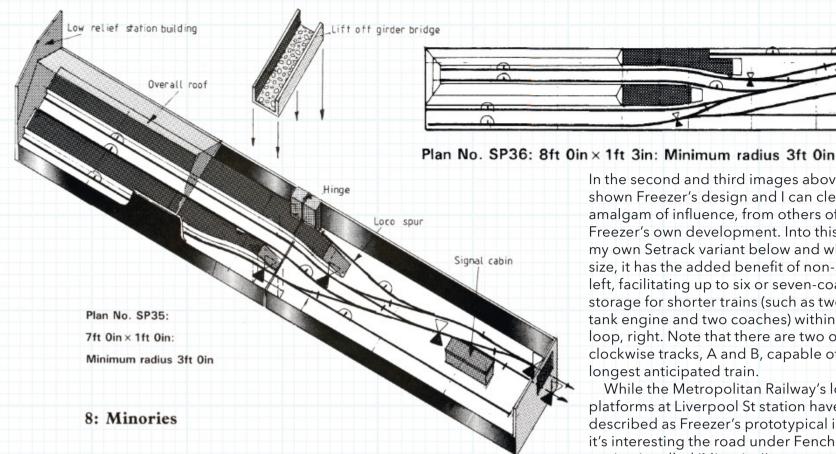




I have empathy with Beal on compression, in that it is "an art in itself." He focused particularly on slightly closing up parallel tracks, to reduce overall width, both space-saving and visually pleasing, in that anything narrower looks longer, as you can see in his comparison of single and double track.

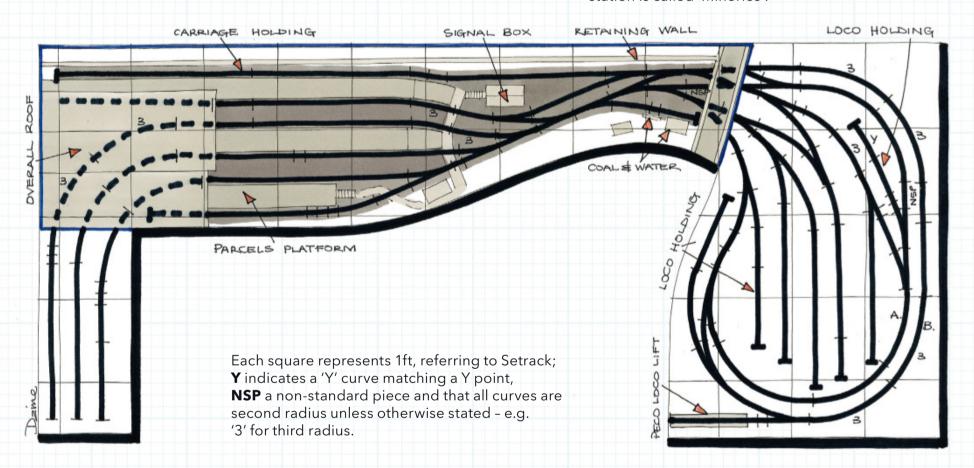
87

Masterplan Inspiration



In the second and third images above and left, I've shown Freezer's design and I can clearly see an amalgam of influence, from others of his time, and Freezer's own development. Into this mix I've added my own Setrack variant below and while Majories in size, it has the added benefit of non-scenic curves, left, facilitating up to six or seven-coach trains and storage for shorter trains (such as two-car DMUs or a tank engine and two coaches) within the reverse loop, right. Note that there are two operationally clockwise tracks, A and B, capable of holding the longest anticipated train.

While the Metropolitan Railway's low-level platforms at Liverpool St station have been described as Freezer's prototypical inspiration, it's interesting the road under Fenchurch Street station is called 'Minories'!

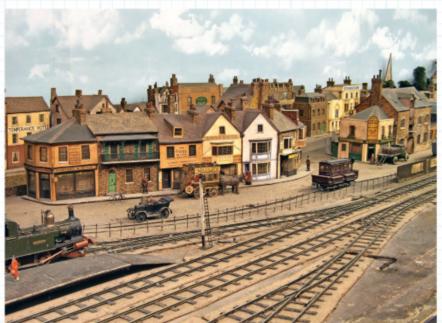


John Ahern, 1903-1961

Ahern was happy to be flexible and not strictly accurate about scale, though he famously said, "I do not think there is any doubt that a fine model is a work of art". Scenery, as we know it nowadays, had often been overlooked before his 'Madder Valley' layout, preserved at Pendon Museum, which had balance between railway infrastructure and overall scenic treatment.

It's a must-see for all model railway enthusiasts. At the cutting edge of his time, when baseboards were rectangular in shape and tracks ran parallel to the long front edge, Ahern effectively managed more pleasing organic shapes, not only for the railway, but road and river too, twisting and turning along their intertwining routes. There's a sense of distance and balance between key parts and contrast with hard and soft surfaces. In a space of 17ft by 10ft he's managed to squeeze in such varied scenic detail and operational activity.







INFLUENCERS

C.J. Freezer, 1924-2009

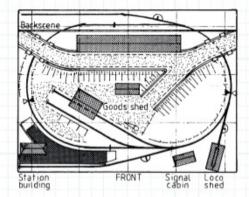
Cyril J. Freezer was of my time, certainly my teenage years, and while we never met, I always felt like I knew him. He the planning professor and me the student, waiting for my monthly lesson. I learned much about planning and design, especially relating to trackwork, through his efforts and he has always been a part of everything I do, even now.

I think it's fair to say that his designs were largely track-intensive, restricting scenic modelling to an area constrained by the railway boundary, especially focusing on buildings that, "might create extra rail traffic."

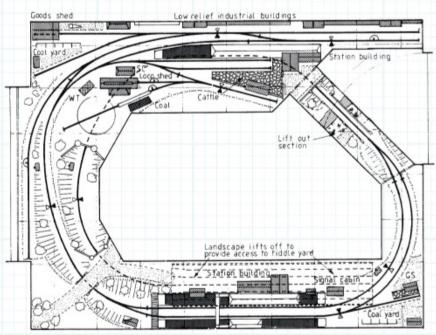
He was an advocate of full-size templates and that layouts should have a primary viewing side. He was also a responsible designer, suggesting attainable layouts in terms of time, skill, knowledge, available equipment and household size, especially the limitations of modern houses, though he was always pushing for a little more space!



Above: C J Freezer, RAILWAY MODELLER editor from 1951 to 1978, designed hundreds of layouts during his publishing career, all of which still provide inspiration for countless enthusiasts worldwide.

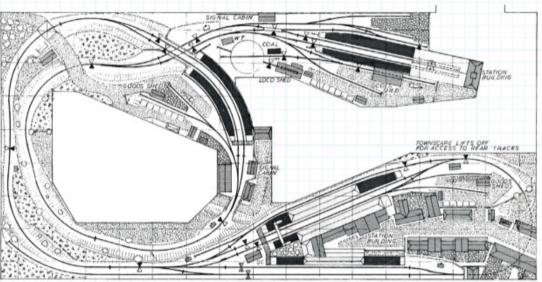


This first example, from Freezer's small plans booklet, has everything you need to get started. If I were to make any minor modifications, I'd move the point serving the bay platform slightly, in an anti-clockwise direction, allowing both platform faces to be extended and maybe increasing track length on the goods shed siding, towards the curve. Otherwise, there's great diagonal balance between station and bridge, top right and a logical common sense to how the road and ramp serve the scene's components.



Plan No. SP53: 9ft Oin × 7ft Oin: Minimum radius 2ft Oin

Much more of a line rather than a location feel about this one, with the suggestion of travelling a route rather than fiddleyard scenic sectionfiddleyard arrangement. Again, platform length needs to be increased at both stations and if the bottom station was pulled nearer to the operating well it could be on a more graceful, organic curve.



Plan No. TP23: Size - 16ft Oin × 8ft Oi

I love the benefit of being able sit in one place and send trains through the landscape, in an out-and-back format, a particular favourite of Freezer. In this garage design I'd put a window and access door in the front, where a garage door or doors once existed. This would allow me to swing the terminus up against the wall and extend it at the same time. I'd lengthen the other two stations and, bottom left, create a semi-rural industry (dairy etc) from what is currently a single siding.

Geoff Williams, John Ahern and Jack Nelson

I think Geoff, John and Jack can be considered way ahead of their time in one particular aspect: that of forced perspective.



Above & below: Here's Geoff Williams' 'Aylesbury' layout. The first image shows a signal box at full scale, with a road off into the rear distance. In the second image, you can see how he's gradually reduced the size of the terraced houses as you get nearer to the rear, to force perspective.





Above: In something akin to decoupage, note how the church and houses, both much reduced in scale, are 'flats' against the backscene. A masterclass in 2D and 3D grouping, volume and forced perspective... perfect!

Below: It's taken some time to track down an example of Jack Nelson's work, but here's one of my favourites. In this controlled view, through an archway, it's almost impossible to tell any use of forced perspective.

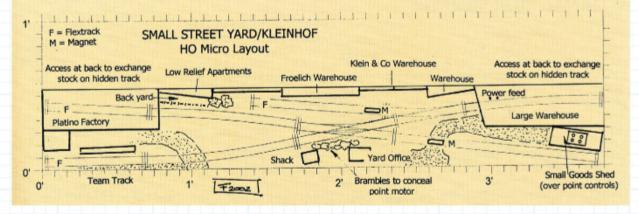


Chris Ellis 1938 to date

Many modellers have second and sometimes multiple interests. I've always said if I had a large room there would be numerous small layouts rather than one large one. "Few of us are totally wedded to one railway to the exclusion of all others and it is frequently impossible to reconcile all our favourites." So said David Jenkinson.

The only person I know who's ever come close to resolving this issue is Chris Ellis, with his multi-model, neutral settings, enabling the layout to represent more than one country and/or period.

The accompanying minimum space plan, at 4ft by 6½ft, is brilliant in so many ways. It can be used as a North American or German layout and requires a solitary double slip and one point in an off-centre arrangement, but



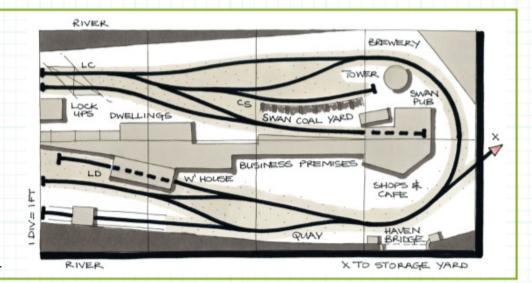
it's the short rear siding, and types and location of structures, in a range of differing sizes, that makes it what it is.

Chris is a compact layout advocate, building on tight budgets. A protagonist of 'keep it simple and attainable, you don't have to be an expert, just be aware of your skills'. Chris has brought so many facets to the modelling railway world - cost-effective stock and building makeovers, varied track plans, insight into railway operation. He is an outstanding and dedicated individual, always pushing boundaries. I learned more from him than anyone in our hobby.

Paul Lunn 1951 to date

I'm not going to discuss the quality or content of my work - that's for others to do. What I will do is share why I do what I do. There's no greater enjoyment in model railway design than solving problems and in wanting to contribute to the success of the hobby by helping others to succeed. "The more successful a plan, the more enjoyment... the more enjoyment, the greater likelihood of continuing with the hobby." It's really that simple.

It's how we all started, being influenced by someone else. In my case, it was Andrew Knight's 4ft by 2ft 'Yarmouth Quay', a double-sided layout, with all-round viewing and special custom minimum radius curves. To this day, it remains the best track plan and layout design I've ever seen.

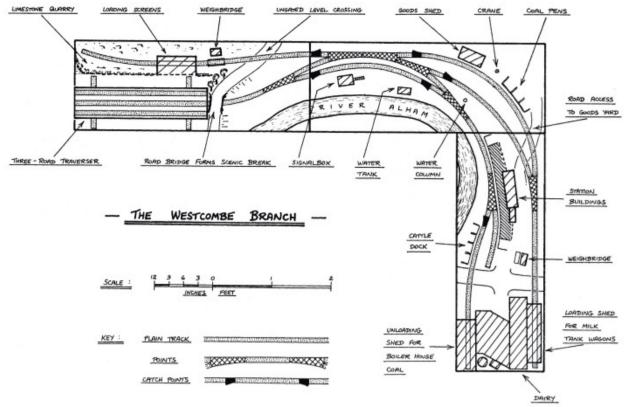


Peter Kazmierczak 1954 to date

Peter Kazmierczak is one of a handful of modellers who had an impact on my fledgling years, especially his accessible writing. Prolific in the 1980s, his thorough and complete approach to layout planning and design and attention to detail appears in 'The Westcombe Branch', a three-part Railway Modeller article (June/July/August 1987).

He talked of restrictions in space, time and funds but, more importantly, of having the physical and mental fortitude to complete a project. "We aim for the clouds but, often, never get off the ground!"

Finding an inspirational prototype is key, and he 'imagineers' a fictitious Somerset and Dorset branch off the real railway near Evercreech Junction. His imagined line has real purpose, featuring coastal resorts on the Bristol Channel, the coalfields of Radstock, the Mendip Hills for dairy products, Cranmore's stone and the River Alham are all places he considered,



choosing three and slipping over the county boundary, into Devon, for Hemyock's station track plan. Capturing my imagination the most, where relevant and

do-able, he talked of gradients however small, for the real railway is seldom flat and it's something we modellers rarely, ever represent!

Paul Marshall-Potter

Some design large, whereas others keep things contained. There are arguments for and against both approaches. You might think that 'small' means 'easy', but to get a great result, striking a balance with space and to find a track plan sufficiently interesting not to send you insane, will take a very special skill.

Paul Marshall-Potter is one such modeller, influenced by Rice, Norman and lain Futers. From the school of prototype fidelity, which he sees as being infinitely easier than anything fictional, he prioritises realistic appearance and believability, high-level viewing and effectively lit scenic containment.



Paul's 'Shelfie 1' (MR214), was originally designed on an overly narrow baseboard (above), representing a central London location. For him, this became implausible and it's at this point I came in to help, tweaking the track plan and the finished layout (below) proved successful.



FUTURE

Crystal ball gazing is always a tricky task, though several of the well-known individuals here were, in their own time, well ahead of the game. You might argue it's hard to see where we might go next, and that quality and accuracy of the best layouts have gone about as far as they can. I think with rejuvenation of the national rail network there's chance for a revival of rail-borne freight, as I suggested in my book *Making Tracks*, with new regional railheads and localised delivery in electric road vehicles. Certainly, this would open up a whole range of opportunities for a hitherto unknown 'modern practice'.

In past times we have planned and designed layouts featuring operation along comprehensive routes. Yet in more recent times we've become almost obsessed with one location, certainly a predominant effect of the micro layout and those striving for prototype fidelity. And yet I think we might be missing out on the enjoyment of old ways. I've already started to include more routes in my track planning and will give it more thought in future designs.

The recent *Great Model Railway Challenge* on national television shows what impact fictional subjects have on the wider public. As a result, I suspect there may be a growth in fictional layouts. My accompanying illustration, from Peco's N gauge Setrack Planbook, is of a minimum space Steam Punk layout.

In a primarily nostalgic hobby, it wouldn't surprise me if there's further growth in collectibles, Rapido Trains UK is making model railway 'film stars' out of The Titfield Thunderbolt. Certainly, my previous designs in Model Rail for Brief Encounter, Young Winston, Oh, Mr Porter! and North West Frontier have caused much interest. It's not just in films either, on the second-hand market there's increased demand, with items like Tri-ang's 'EM2', container wagon, '3MT'

2-6-2T and Ivatt '4MT' flying off the shelves when the price is right. There'll undoubtedly be a demand for relevant layout schemes and I'll be looking at these too.

Whatever we prioritise, in a niche and vulnerable hobby, it's important we all stand together, with a plan for strength and longevity and I am pleased to see that Peco has engaged a marketing manager with just that in mind. How we share knowledge and skill, resulting in increased enjoyment, and that what we do is accessible to all, is key to where we go from here.

ve e

THANK YOU

It's been an absolute joy researching this article, so diverse in content, and it could not have been achieved without significant help from Ben Arnold (managing director, Peco Publications and Publicity Ltd), Mick Moignard (secretary to the trustees, Pendon Museum), Edward Talbot (LNWR Society), Colin Cartwright (Conwy Valley Railway Museum), Peter Kazmierczak, Chris Ellis and Paul Marshall-Potter.

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'O' BR CLASS 56

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Class 56 (unnumbered) Railfreight Red Stripe grey 5603

Class 56 (unnumbered) Trainload Freight Sector grey 5604

Class 56 (unbranded) 5605 Railfreight Coal Sector grey 56101

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Reviews



Heljan Class 56

◆ GAUGE 'O' ◆ MODEL 5601 BR Class 56 diesel electric Co-Co, 'Large logo' blue ◆ PRICE £699.00 ◆ AVAILABILITY Heljan stockists Web www.heljan.co.uk

rid' fans have been waiting a few years for the 'O' gauge Heljan Class 56 to arrive, as it's been simmering away in development since 2018.
Representing an important prototype from the latter days of British Rail, this latest model has, at the time of writing, just shipped to Heljan retailers.

Production of the real Class 56s was a drawn-out affair, with production spread across Romania, Crewe and Doncaster Works, with various detail and profile differences emerging across each batch. These variations have provided manufacturers with numerous challenges over the years, with the Mainline 'OO' version from the late 1970s offering just a single bodyshell tooling. Hornby's more recent version offers more options, while Cavalex's forthcoming 'OO' gauge model promises to cover all bases.

So many tooling options would be a significant financial risk for an 'O' gauge model, however, so Heljan has sensibly opted to base its model on the later Doncaster and Crewe-built '56s', namely 56070-135. Eight

livery options are on offer in this first batch, covering the key BR schemes of Rail blue, 'large logo' blue, original and 'red stripe' Railfreight and a trio of Railfreight sub-sector versions, plus the popular Loadhaul black/orange of the shadow privatisation era.

Our test sample, kindly supplied by Heljan, sports the striking 'Large Logo' version of BR Rail blue, as carried by 56036/47-49/84-134. It certainly looks like a real '56', although this class has proved difficult to 'nail' definitively in all scales so far. To my eyes, Heljan's model





captures the character of the prototype well and the paint finish is flawless.

As is the norm with most of Heljan's 7mm scale diesels, no numbers are applied, but all other legends are present, including data panels, which are fully legible. The quality of the body moulding is excellent, with the various louvres and panels nicely rendered. The side radiator grilles are etched metal and allow the distinctive body framework to be seen, while the roof grilles also feature a fine mesh, beneath which a pair of radiator fans are powered by a separate motor.

The exhaust ports are hollow, providing realistic depth, and the twin circular 'top hat' vents either side of the engine roof panel are nicely done, with small wire handrails installed. The cab fronts are bedecked with lovely moulded multiple working sockets and jumper cables, headlamps, lamp brackets and wire handrails. The large square



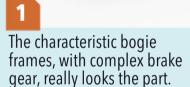
air horn cover is a separate moulding, suggesting perhaps that Heljan might offer the smaller mesh panels of earlier '56s' in future.

A nice touch is the provision of both round and flat section cab door handrails for customer fitting (I chose the latter) and these are simple to glue into position, although I found it helpful to ream out the mounting holes slightly for an easier fit. Also supplied in the small detail bag is a pair of unpainted fire



extinguishers for the cab interiors, small square mesh panels for those '56s' equipped with air conditioning, plus a set of the grid-style coupling guards to fit beneath the bufferbeams. Directional LED lighting is installed, along with switchable cab interior lights.

Most of the model's weight comes from a hefty die-cast chassis and, after unscrewing the bodyshell, there are few surprises for anyone familiar with Heljan's previous 'O' gauge >





A separate electric motor drives a pair of radiator roof fans.



Cab interiors feature plenty of detail on the control consoles and bulkheads.

Reviews



Factfile: BR Class 56

The UK's upsurge in coal-fired power generation in the 1970s, owing to a hike in oil prices, led British Rail to urgently pursue a dedicated fleet of new diesel locomotives. Class 47s had become the staple traction for heavier Merry-Go-Round (MGR) coal services, linking collieries and power stations, with pairs of Class 20s also putting in sterling efforts. However, a more powerful and resilient design was needed, which led to the Class 56 Co-Co, developed in conjunction with Brush.

Owing to lack of capacity at UK works, production of the first 30 locomotives was sub-contracted to Electroputere in Romania. Numerous issues

arose with these early locomotives upon delivery, delaying their introduction until 1977. The remainder of the 136-strong fleet was subsequently built at BR's Doncaster and Crewe Works, with the final example entering service in 1984.

Designed with the haulage of heavy coal, aggregate and steel trains firmly in mind, the '56s' sphere of operation soon spread across much of England and South Wales, plus southern areas of Scotland. As well as MGR coal trains, Class 56s also became synonymous with the 3,300 ton iron ore services from Port Talbot to Llanwern (operated by pairs of '56s') and, prior to the

introduction of the GM Class 59s, the '56s' hauled stone traffic from the Mendip quarries.

Post-privatisation, reliability issues and the arrival of the Class 66 led EWS to withdraw the entire Class 56 fleet in 2003. Various examples have since been preserved or reactivated for use by main line operators, in the UK and abroad, including Fastline and Colas, while GB Railfreight is in the process of re-engineering a small fleet of '56s' to become Class 69, with the first examples entering traffic last year.







- 1: A pair of 'large logo' blue Class 56s pause at Worksop in July 1983, with 56111 on the left. COLOUR RAIL
- 2: Doncaster-built 56076 Blyth Power wears a rather grubby coat of original BR Rail blue in August 1983. Only a relatively small number of '56s' were named in BR days. COLOUR RAIL
- **3:** After 'Large Logo' blue gave way to grey, a later modification saw the use of slightly smaller BR logo and a red band along the lower bodysides. 56076 sports the 'red stripe' scheme at Chesterfield, May 1991. COLOUR RAIL

System

Other items to complement this model...

MGR HOPPERS

Dapol's HAA coal hoppers proved very popular first time around, and new batches are due this year.

Price: £50.96

Availability: Dapol stockists www.dapol.co.uk



HEA HOPPERS

Class 56s could also be seen on non-MGR coal flows, hauling HEA hoppers. These are also due from Dapol this year.

Price: from £46.75 **Availability:** Dapol stockists www.dapol.co.uk



IGA CARGOWAGGON FLAT

There aren't many options for steel carrying wagons in RTR 'O', but Heljan's IGA flats are suitable for loading with steel for export.

Price: £189.00

Availability: Heljan stockists www.heljan.co.uk



SUMMARY



- High quality finish.
- High level of detail.
 - Performance.

CONS

Not a lot.



Worth waiting for!

output. Two substantial motors are mounted vertically, one per bogie, each topped with a sizable brass flywheel. Power is transmitted to the outer axles of each bogie, via nylon gears and a large central PCB is equipped with screw terminals to ease DCC installation. Space and mounting points are provided for an ESU smoke unit and a 66mm by 29mm speaker.

The cab interiors feature a wealth of detail, including control and brake handles, telephone console and hotplate. Alas, the parts are not painted individually, so this would provide an enjoyable mini project, prior to adding a suitable footplate crew.

The bogie frames are impressive, replicating the complex brake gear and suspension detail very well. There's a nice amount of depth,



thanks to the brake shoes being fitted in line with the wheels. The fuel tank, battery box and compressor also look great, with separate plumbing, conduit and sand pipes adding further finesse.

On the rails, the model performed faultlessly under test on my modest 'O' gauge setup. A few Heljan '56s' were seen at

work on 'Heaton Lodge Junction' recently (see page 6), hauling scale-length trains of MGR hoppers, looking very much at home amid the northern Pennine setting. I'm sure we'll be seeing of plenty of these on other 'O' gauge layouts soon, as they're bound to prove very popular. It has certainly been worth the wait! (GD)



HELJAN CLASS 56

OV	FR	VI	FW
UV	EK	VII	EVV

Manufacturer: Heljan Ref. No. 5601

Unit No. Unnumbered

Scale/gauge: 1:43.5 scale, 'O' gauge **Body:** Plastic with metal parts

Chassis: Metal with plastic parts

Weight: 2.9kg Min. curve radius: 800mm Wheel back-to-back: 29mm

ELECTRICS

Electrical system: 12V DC two-rail **Motor type:** 2 x 12V five-pole motors Lights: Directional head/marker/tail

lights, switchable cab interior lights. **DCC ready:** Yes, screw terminals

1:43.5 SCALE **DIMENSIONS PROTOTYPE** MODEL 63ft 6in Length 445mm 445mm Height 12ft 9¾in 92mm 92mm Width 9ft 2in 64mm 64mm Wheel diameter 3ft 9in 26mm 25.5mm Bogie wheelbase 13ft 6in 94.5mm 95mm

MECHANISM

Drive system: Power to two axles per bogie via gears.

Flywheel(s): Two Traction tyres: No

SERVICING

How to dismantle: Body unscrews from chassis.

Where to oil: Gears, bearings and axles, as per instructions.

First Review



Kato/Peco FR 'Small England' 0-4-0STT

◆ GAUGE '009' ◆ MODEL 51-251A Ffestiniog Railway 'Small England' 0-4-0STT *Princess* ◆ PRICE £150.00 ◆ AVAILABILITY Peco stockists Web www.hattons.co.uk

arrow gauge modelling in 4mm scale has received numerous boosts in recent years, with significant growth in RTR locomotives and rolling stock from several manufacturers. Announced back in 2019, Peco's joint venture with Kato to reproduce the Ffestiniog Railway's 'Small England' 0-4-OSTT has reached fruition,

with the appearance of *Prince* and *Princess*.

Both sport the handsome lined maroon FR livery and sales have been very brisk. The launch has not been without its problems, however, as many models have been reported as damaged in transit. Indeed, our sample was no different and it appears that the hard foam packaging lacks support for the

front of the locomotive. Even a minor impact puts pressure on the cab, leading it to become dislodged. The tiny twin whistles had also been knocked loose but, thankfully, they were found in the box before getting lost. Happily, the parts all clipped back into place, so no great harm was done. Peco is aware of the issue and urges anyone affected to get in touch by emailing <code>info@</code>

peco.co or calling 01297 300194.

Once the little locomotive is out of the box, its charms become apparent. The prototypes are very handsome in their own right, and Peco and Kato have done a great job in capturing the essence of the real things in miniature. Both models are offered in the Ffestiniog's deep maroon livery, embellished with black and white lining and,





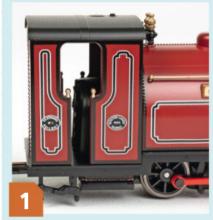
flywheel and worm gear are installed, which help create an incredibly quiet and smooth-running chassis >>>

in a welcome touch, the different patterns of smokebox handrails have been replicated across the two individual models.

The overall level of detail is not as spectacular as some other recent models, but it's pretty good, nonetheless. The handrails are fine and neatly installed and the brake rods and pipework beneath the cab is nicely done. The tender chassis, resembling a freight wagon's underframe, is impressive, thanks to the brake shoes, vacuum cylinder and shafts. The spoked wheels on locomotive and tender are of a high standard.

The cab interior features minimal moulded detail on the backhead. While the lack of

3 things we like



The livery application is impressive, with neatly applied lining and crisply printed worksplates.



The twin whistles and mounting bracket are nicely rendered, as are the spectacle plates.



The Kato mechanism offers very smooth performance.

finesse is visible through the side and rear apertures, once a footplate crew was installed, they're likely toblock the view. As well as alternative couplings, a set of small plastic grab irons are supplied for customers to fit. These require cutting from a sprue and pushing into pre-formed holes in the locomotive and tender - full instructions are supplied.

The slide bars are a simple flat etch, inside which a plastic crosshead glides back and forth and the coupling rods are pleasingly refined. Power is collected from the leading driving axle and all four tender wheels via the axle bearings, with a conductive clip-on

Reviews



Factfile: 'Small England' 0-4-0STT

A quartet of George England's classic 0-4-0STTs was built for the Ffestiniog Railway (FR) in 1863 - the world's first steam locomotives built for a narrow gauge railway. Eventually built with side tanks and a small coalcarrying tender, the locomotives were rebuilt with saddle tanks from the 1880s onwards to increase water capacity.
Built primarily to move

Welsh slate, which was in ever-increasing demand, the FR board had been moved to look towards steam traction as a more effective option to the existing horse-drawn and gravity-operated system. The 'Small Englands' were also used to haul passenger services, before they ceased in 1939.

While No. 3 Mountaineer was broken up for spares in 1879, the other three - Nos. 1 Princess, 2 Prince and 4 Palmerston have survived into preservation at the FR, with two of them in working order.



1: Together with 'Large England' No. 5 Welsh Pony, the FR's pair of operational 'Small England' 0-4-0STTs Palmerston and Prince rest at Boston **Lodge.** CHRIS PARRY/STEAM RAILWAY

2: The smokebox handrail on FR No. 2 Prince differs from that on No. 1 *Princess* - a feature observed on the Peco/Kato models. STEAM RAILWAY

3: FR No. 2 Prince climbs Gwyndy Bank in October 2021. HARRY PARTINGTON/STEAM RAILWAY





System

Other items to complement

FR 'SMALL **BIRMINGHAM' COACHES**

Known as 'Bug Boxes', these twin-axle vehicles were built in Birmingham for the FR in the 1860s. Peco offers First and Third class coaches, plus an observation car.

Price: £27.55 each **Availability:** Peco stockists **Web:** www.peco-uk.com

coupler linking the tender and locomotive. A set of traction tyres is fitted to the rear driving axle for increased haulage ability. The chassis is a splitblock affair, with a coreless motor transmitting power to the rear driving wheels. A brass flywheel and worm gear are installed, which help create an incredibly quiet and smooth-running chassis.

The bulky nature of the saddle

tanks allow for a decent amount of cast metal to be accommodated on the chassis, which further helps performance (the tender is also filled with a cast metal weight). Incidentally, the Japanese-made locomotive chassis will also be offered separately (without traction tyres), which will be very useful for kit and scratch-builders. The model is not DCC-ready and squeezing a decoder inside

might prove a challenge for the most expert of digital users, although I'm sure some whiz kid will work out a way!

This is a very attractive model and, with Kato's superb mechanism, the overall package is extremely tempting. If you've yet to give narrow gauge modelling a try, now is the perfect time. (GD)

· With thanks to Hattons for the loan of this sample.



SLATE WAGONS

A triple-pack of typical FR slate wagons is available from Peco, depicting iron frame vehicles. **Price:** £32.85 per triple-pack **Availability:** Peco stockists **Web:** www.peco-uk.com



FOOTPLATE CREW

Osborn's Models was quick off the mark to produce a 3D-printed driver and fireman set, designed to suit the 'Small England'.

Price: £5.99 (£9.99 painted) **Availability:** Osborn's Models Web: www.osbornsmodels.com





- Performance.
 - Looks.
- Quality finish.

CONS

- Packaging.
- Minimal cab detail.



Lovely.









KATO/PECO FR 'SMALL ENGLAND' 0-4-0STT

OVERVIEW Manufacturer: Kato Ref. No. 51-251A Unit No. No. 1 Scale/gauge: 1:76 scale, '009' gauge

Body: Plastic with metal parts Chassis: Metal with plastic parts Weight: 59g

Min. curve radius: 117mm Wheel back-to-back: 7.5mm

DIMENSIONS PROTOTYPE 1:76 SCALE MODEL Length (excl. couplers) 26ft 1in 105mm 104mm Height N/A N/A 33mm N/A Width N/A 23.4mm Wheel diameter (driving) 2ft 0in 8mm 8mm Coupled wheelbase 4ft 6in 18_{mm} 18mm

SERVICING

How to dismantle: Body unclips from chassis. Where to oil: Axle bearings, as per instructions. **ELECTRICS** Electrical system: 12V DC two-rail **Motor type:** Coreless Lights: No DCC ready: No

MECHANISM Drive system: Power to rear coupled axle Flywheel(s): Yes

Traction tyres: Yes, two

Reviews



Accurascale HYA/IIA hopper wagons

◆ GAUGE 'OO' ◆ MODEL • Accurascale ACC2602FF3 HYA bogie hopper wagons, Fastline Freight, twin-pack • ACC2623IIA4 IIA Biomass bogie hopper wagons, GBRf/VTG

◆ PRICE £74.95 per twin pack ◆ AVAILABILITY Accurascale stockists Web www.accurascale.co.uk

B Railfreight (GBRf) ordered over 400 high-capacity bogie hoppers between 2007-2011, with assembly carried out across several batches, in Romania and the UK. Designed to transport imported coal to power stations across the country, they were equipped with track-friendly TF25 bogies and helped GBRf break into a traffic that had hitherto been dominated by EWS and Freightliner. The short-lived Fastline Freight outfit soon followed suit, ordering its own fleet of identical hoppers in 2008. Featuring triple discharge

chutes, sloped ends and a distinctive bare metal finish to the sides, showing off an unusual pattern of weld seams, the wagons were soon to be seen in the hands of Class 66s and, occasionally, Class 60s. All wagons were owned by leasing companies VTG or GE Leasing and, when the Fastline operation was wound up, the fleet was loaned to Colas, Freightliner and GBRf. Despite this, the Fastline logos have remained on many wagons to this day.

Allotted the HYA TOPS code, they were later reclassified as IIA and, over the past ten years they have switched to hauling



aggregates, owing to the massive decline in coal traffic. Since 2020, many of the UK-built IIAs have been converted to biomass hoppers, with the addition of pneumatically controlled hopper 66 I was particularly impressed by the daylight visible around the handbrake wheels and operating levers >>



covers. These wagons carry imported wood-derived fuel from ports such as Tyne Dock, Liverpool and Bristol, to various power stations including Drax and, until 2015, Ironbridge.

Accurascale has produced both the original open and covered biomass hoppers, offered in a range of twin-packs featuring GBRf and Fastline liveries, each containing individually numbered wagons. At the time of writing, the packs were selling fast, indicating the demand for such key modern freight stock. Received for review is a pair of Fastline Freight open hoppers and a duo of GBRf biomass wagons. They're certainly striking models, with the bare metal finish replicated nicely thanks to the subtle metallic paintwork. Along with the countless logos and legends, the distinctive weld seams have been tampo printed and the complex patterns match prototype images and, vitally, marry up with the internal partitions and framework.

Indeed, the inside of the hopper has been reproduced in full, although there are a number of circular mould ejector pin marks on the internal surfaces. The outer ends have been captured well, with the corrugated access panels looking effective. I was particularly impressed by the daylight visible around the handbrake wheels and operating lever at opposite ends of each side - both key characteristics of the prototype.

The hopper operating gear is faithfully replicated, and the bogies really look the part, with brake gear in place (and aligned perfectly with the 'OO' wheels). The axles run smoothly, with the wagons rolling effortlessly around my test track. Sprung buffers are installed and NEM couplers sit in sprung, pivoting mounts to enable close coupling. The wagons have some heft, each weighing in at 157g (open) and 165g (covered biomass).

The Biomass version not only sports a convincing set of covers, but also the actuating arms and mounting brackets at each end. Other small detail fittings at solebar level are also accurately rendered, along with slightly different weld seam patterns, demonstrating admirable attention to detail.

Build quality is universally high, in terms of design, assembly and finish, combining to produce a range of impressive vehicles.







A small bag of details is supplied, featuring dummy screw-link couplings and air pipes. As the level of sales have proved, these are a very welcome addition to the 'OO' market and will look especially good behind a GBRf Class 66/7. (GD)

SUMMARY



- Impressive level of detail.
 - High quality finish.
 - Smooth running.
 - Important modern prototype.

CONS

 A few moulding marks on hopper interior.



FINAL VERDICT

Superb.



Reviews



Accurascale cut-down HYA hopper wagons

◆ GAUGE 'OO' ◆ MODEL Accurascale ACC2645TAR3 cut-down HYA hopper wagons, twin-pack, VTG/GBRf/Tarmac ◆ PRICE £74.95 per twin-pack

AVAILABILITY Accurascale stockists Web www.accurascale.co.uk

s mentioned on the preceding pages, GB Railfreight and Fastline Freight's fleets of HYA/IIA bogie hopper wagons were originally designed for bulk coal traffic. However, with the doubling of the UK's carbon tax and the following downturn in coal-fired power generation, that traffic dwindled rapidly. As a result, large fleets of bogie hoppers, some only a few years old, were withdrawn and stored at various locations around the network.

Aggregates traffic continues to provide rail operators with

plenty of business, however, and many of the coal hoppers were cascaded to moving stone instead. Stone is much heavier than coal, which meant that the wagons could only be partially filled, thus reducing operating efficiency. Accordingly, a programme of rebuilding has been undertaken, shortening the high-capacity coal hoppers to feature two hopper bays rather than three.

This cut-and-shut approach was rolled out to the HYA/IIA fleet, thanks to wagon leasing firm VTG. Works were undertaken by W.H. Davis at Langwith





Junction, with the centre hopper bay removed, thus reducing the overall length of the wagon by approximately 3 metres. After a single prototype was treated and tested in 2016, the work has continued, with a few hundred vehicles now converted.

The modified wagons have been coded as HYA and, for the most part, have retained their original numbers. Operated by GBRf, the wagons can be found on stone traffic from various sources, including Peak Forest, Bardon Hill, Rylstone, Arcow and Grain, usually running in mixed formations with unmodified IIAs

and other similar wagon types.

Accurascale's decision to replicate the cut-down version of the HYA in parallel with the original versions has been welcomed by modellers, so much so that all twin-packs had just sold out as we closed for press. Owing to the success of this first production run, it seems likely that Accurascale will produce another run in future. Various livery and number options were produced, encompassing NACCO, Cemex and GBRf/VTG/Tarmac liveries, the latter of which is under review.

Much of the comments in



66 The printing of the various logos is superb and build quality is faultless >>

the previous review apply to these wagons too, in terms of detail, finish and performance, so there's no point repeating them here. This version features a painted hopper body, as per the real thing, and the raised panel seams from the rebuilding work have been accurately - and subtly - captured on the hopper bodysides.

All relevant detail differences have been observed, including the modified operating gear for the twin hopper chutes. Interestingly, there are fewer visible moulding pin marks on the hopper interior of these samples and a similar pack of extra bufferbeam details is provided. The printing of the various logos and operating instructions is superb and, once again, build quality is faultless.

Another great new product for modellers of the contemporary freight scene. (GD)



PROS

- Impressive level of detail. High-quality finish.
 - Smooth running.
 - Important modern prototype.

CONS

Nothing.



Excellent.



Bachmann 'Vanwide'

◆ GAUGE 'OO' ◆ MODEL Bachmann Branchline 38-871 BR 12T 'Vanwide', BR bauxite (late); 38-873 BR 12T 'Vanwide' VEV,

bauxite, weathered • PRICE £39.95 each • AVAILABILITY Bachmann stockists Web www.bachmann.co.uk

eviewed in the April issue of *Model Rail* (MR298), Bachmann's 12T VEA van portrayed the later air-braked version of this humble BR design. Equipped with generous sliding doors, the wagons were designed to assist with loading and unloading via forklift truck. While the air-braked conversions of the 1970s rode on improved suspension, the original builds, dating from 1962, featured a more traditional underframe arrangement.

Following its post-1970 iteration, Bachmann has now released the 'Vanwide' in original form, complete with vacuum brake gear. Indeed, it's the underframe that we'll focus on here as the body is unchanged, save for the application of appropriate livery colours and markings. We have a pristine bauxite version and a superbly weathered, TOPS-coded version to assess, each sporting era-specific markings. Furthermore, the shabby VEV also sports a set of roller bearing axleboxes, in contrast to the original oil 'boxes of its sister wagon.

The chassis is impressive, with plenty of moulded detail.

The brake shoes are refined, as are the brake handles and shafts. However, as with the air-braked version, much of the brake detail is left to the customer to install, which is a little fiddly and mildly disappointing given the price. Other than that, build quality and finish are exemplary and our samples ran effortlessly under test.

This is a useful prototype to feature on almost any layout set between 1962 and the late 1980s. (GD)





SUMMARY

PROS

- Impressive level of detail.
 - High-quality finish.
 - Detail differences.
 - Excellent weathered version.

CONS

 Customer-fit brake details.



Impressive.

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GWR GREEN

◆ MR-306: GWR green No. 1638

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- MR-307A: BR black early emblem pristine, No. 1616
- ◆ MR-307B: BR black early emblem pristine, No. 1629
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NCB GREEN

- ◆ MR-309A: NCB green, No. 1600
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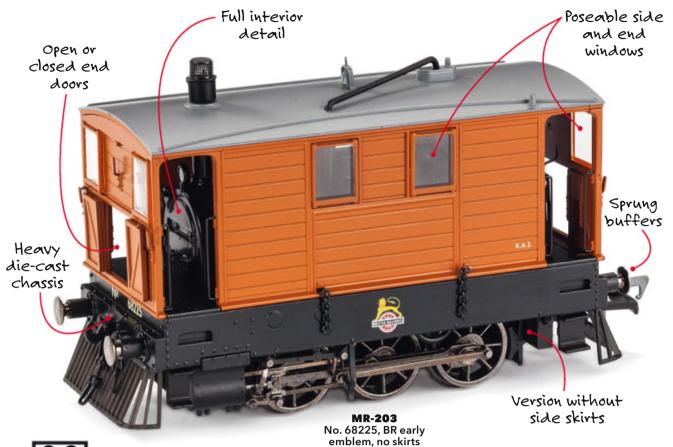
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Specification list

Made by: Bachmann/Kader

Motor: Three-pole

DCC socket: Six-pin

Features: NEM coupler

pockets, two types of cab,

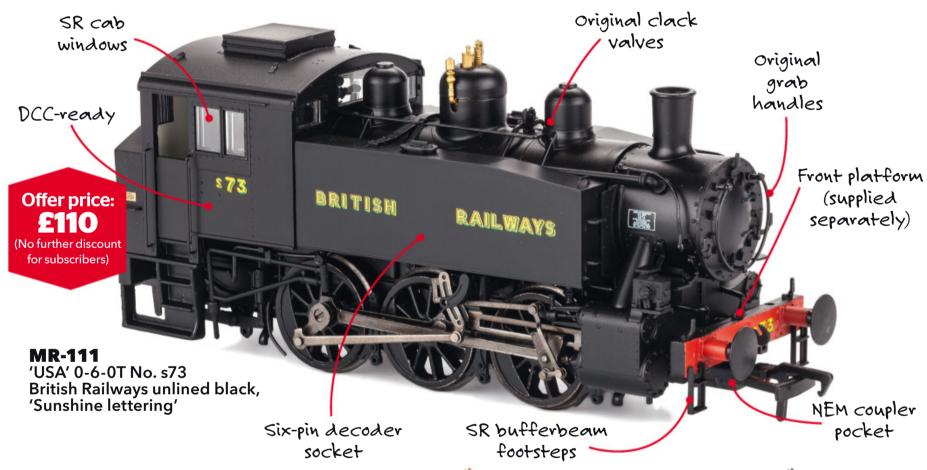
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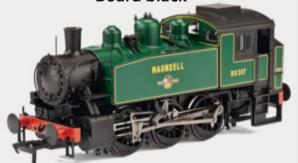
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GFB Designs	
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Harder & Steenbeck	
Hattons 116	
Heljan	
Hobby Rail	
Hobby Trax	
Howes Models	130

singlass Models140	Railtrail Tours127
eith Alan85	Rapido Trains19
Gernow Model Rail Centre120-121	Revolution Trains131
JB Models	Ron Lines
(R Models	Scalescenes.com137
angley Models133	Smart Models136
ittleworth Models139	Spot On Models141
Megapoints Controllers134	Ten Commandments
Netcalfe Models75	The Airbrush Company10
Model Railway Solutions142	The Hereford Model Centre74
Modelrailwayscenery.com 140	The Hobby Shop
Morley Controllers136	TMC122-123
Norris Models	Tower Models126
DK Models141	Townstreet137
erth Model Railway Club 141	Trains4U135
eter's Spares142	Warwick & Warwick147
olly Model Engineering124	York Modelmaking 140
tails Of Sheffield111-115	YouChoos138

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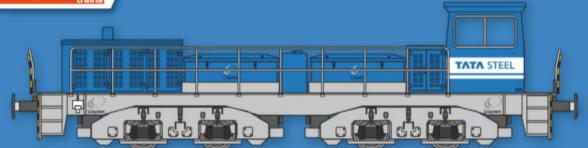




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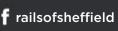
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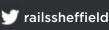
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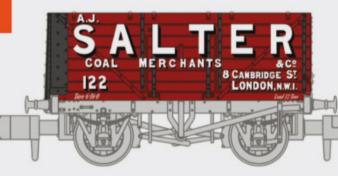
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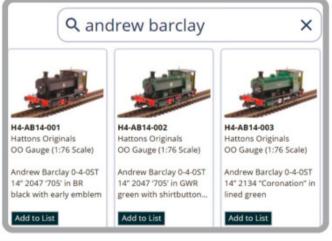






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OO Gauge Steam Locos



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Stage: Engineering Sample Due: 2023 Price: from £152.96 Digital: NEXT-1 **Digital:** NEXT-18 hattons.co.uk/rapidolion



Hawthorn Leslie 0-4-0ST

Due: Q3 2023 Price: from £99.45 Digital: NEXT-18 hattons.co.uk/dapolhl040



Hunslet 16" 0-6-0ST

Stage: Engineering Sample Due: TBC 2022 Price: from £110.46 Digital: NEXT-18 Digital: NEXT-18 hattons.co.uk/rapidohunslet



Class 78xx 'Manor' 4-6-0

Due: Q2 2022 **Stage:** Deco Samples Digital: NEXT-18 **Price:** from £140.72 hattons.co.uk/dapolmanor



Class 78xx Manor 4-6-0

Stage: Engineering Sample **Due:** Q2 2022 **Price:** from £169.99 **Digital:** 21-pin hattons.co.uk/accurascalemanor



HR Class I 'Jones Goods' 4-6-0 **Due:** TBC 2023

Price: from £186.96 Digital: 21-pin hattons.co.uk/rapidojonesgoods

OO Diesels & Electrics



Class 31

Stage: Engineering Samples **Due:** Q2 2023 **Price:** from £169.99 **Digital:** 21-pin Digital: 21-pin hattons.co.uk/accurascale31



Stage: Engineering Samples Due: Q2 2022 Price: from £169.99 Digital: 21-pin

hattons.co.uk/accurascale37



Class 47

Stage: Prototype **Due:** Q2 2022 Digital: 21-pin hattons.co.uk/heljanoo47



Class 59

Stage: Painted Samples **Due:** Late 2022 **Price:** from £136.31 **Digital:** 21-pin hattons.co.uk/dapol59

N Gauge Diesel Locos



BR NBL Prototype 10800 Stage: CADs **Due:** 2023

Digital: 21-pin **Price:** £199.71 hattons.co.uk/heljan10800

OO Gauge Multiple Units



Class 104 DMU

Stage: CADs **Due:** Q1 2023 Digital: 21-pin Price: from £296.65 hattons.co.uk/heljan104

OO Coaches & Wagons



Genesis 4 & 6 Wheel Coaches

Stage: Deco Samples **Due:** 2022 Digital: 18-pin **Price:** from £30 hattons.co.uk/genesis



BR Mk2B Coaches Stage: Deco Samples

Due: Q4 2022 Price: £59.95 each **Digital:** Yes hattons.co.uk/accurascalemk2b



GWR 'Toplight City' Coaches Stage: Engineering Samples **Due:** 2023

Price: £51 each **Digital:** 6-pin hattons.co.uk/dapoltoplightcity Siphon G Vans

Stage: Early Samples **Due:** Q1 2023 **Price:** £54.95 Digital: N/A



SECR 10t Goods Van

Stage: Deco Samples **Due:** 2023 Digital: N/A hattons.co.uk/rapidosecrvan



VIX Ferry Vans

Stage: Engineering Samples **Due:** 2022 Price: £39.06 each Digital: N/A hattons.co.uk/rapidovix



Chaldron 4-wheel Wagons Stage: Deco Samples **Due:** Q2 2022 **Price:** £44.99 (3-pack) Digital: N/A

hattons.co.uk/accurascalechaldron



MGR Hopper Wagons & CDAs

Stage:Deco Samples **Due:** Q2 202 **Price:** £74.95 (3-pack)

hattons.co.uk/accurascalemgr



MHA 'Coalfish' Wagons

Stage:Deco Samples **Price:** £74.95 (3-pack) hattons.co.uk/accurascalemha

Due: Q2 2022 Digital: N/A

N Gauge Steam Locos



LSWR Class M7 0-4-4T

Stage: Prototype **Due:** Q2 2022 **Price:** £83.2 Digital: Yes - PCB swap hattons.co.uk/dapolm7



Class 28 Co-Bo

Due: TBC 2022 **Stage:** Early sample Price: from £101.96 **Digital:** NEXT-18 hattons.co.uk/rapidocobo



Class 59

Stage: Engineering Samples **Due:** Q4 2022 **Digital:** NEXT-18 **Price:** from £136 hattons.co.uk/dapoln59

N Gauge Wagons



JHA 102t Hopper Wagons Stage: Engineering Samples Due: Q3/ Q4 2022 Price: £33.96 Digital: N/A

Digital: N/A hattons.co.uk/dapolnjha

O Gauge Steam Locos



Class J94 Austerity 0-6-0ST **Stage:** CADs

Price: from £212.50 Digital: 21-pin

O Gauge Diesels/ Electrics



Stage: Deco Samples **Due:** Q2 2022 Price: from £509.15 Digital: ESU XL hattons.co.uk/heljano26



Class 37/0 Re-Tool

Stage: CADs **Due:** 2023 **Price:** £534.65 Digital: ESU XL hattons.co.uk/heljano37



Stage: Early sample **Due:** 2023 Price: from £594.15 Digital: ESU XL hattons.co.uk/heliandeltic



Class 56

Stage: Deco Samples **Due:** Q2 2022 **Price:** from £594.15 **Digital:** ESU XL hattons.co.uk/heljan56



Class 66

Stage: Engineering Sample **Price:** from £285.92 **Due:** Q3 2022 **Digital:** 21-pin hattons.co.uk/dapolo66





Due: Q2 2022 **Stage:** Painted Samples **Price:** from £297.50 Digital: 21-pin hattons.co.uk/dapolorailcar



Class 117 2/ 3-car DMU

Due: 2022 **Stage:** Early samples Digital: 21-pin Price: from £551.65 hattons.co.uk/heljan117

O Coaches & Wagons



Stroudley 4 Wheel Coaches Stage: Deco Samples Due: Q2 2022 Price: from £96.77 **Digital:** Yès TBC hattons.co.uk/dapolstroudley



Mk2 & Mk2A Coaches **Due:** Q3 2022 **Stage:** Prototypes **Price:** from £237.15 Digital: N/A

hattons.co.uk/heljanmk2

Mk1 Covered Carriage Trucks Due: 2022 **Stage:** Early sample **Price:** from £152.15 Digital: N/A hattons.co.uk/heljancct



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H4-AB14-006 Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST 14" 2069 "Little Barford" in Acton Lane Power Station blue wasp stripes (Hat) (RRP £99).....BARGAIN



R3541 Class Q6 Raven 0-8-0 2265 in LNER black pre-war lettering (Hor) (RRP £194.99).....BARGAIN....£114



R3702 Class W4 Peckett 0-4-0ST "Daphne" in Tytherington Stone Co. purple (Hor) £115



R3703 Class W4 Peckett 0-4-0ST No.8 "Bear" in light



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

Diesel locos



R30084 0-6-0 'Sentinel' diesel shunter 3001 in Manchester Ship Canal blue (Hor) NEW



R30083 0-6-0 'Sentinel' diesel shunter 39 in Port of Bristol Authority blue (Hor) NEW





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R3751 Class 87 87002 "Royal Sovereign" in Caledonian



4D-009-HAT05 Class 121 single car DMU 'Bubblecar 55027 in revised Network South East - Hatton's limited edition (Dap) (RRP £129.95)......BARGAIN.....£99

Train sets - analogue



R1230 Starter train set - "GWR High Speed Train" (Hor) £142 Coaches



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O Gauge (1:43 Scale)



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H7-A4-006 Class A4 4-6-2 60007 "Sir Nigel Gresley" in BR express blue unstreamlined corridor tender - "Record



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Diesel locos



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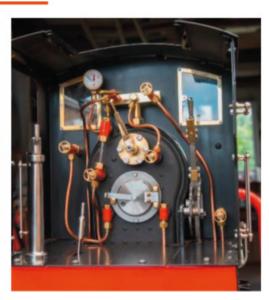
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6 Body Types in various liveries RRP £219.00 OUR PRICE £186.15 **GUV** various liveries RRP £199.00 OUR PRICE £169.15 **NOW AVAILABLE**

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SPECTACULAR STEAM IN EUROPE

With travel restrictions being considerably eased we are delighted to invite you aboard our 2022 celebrated steam tours to Germany.

Please note: Tour Fares Are Guaranteed - No Currency Surcharge.

Northern Germany & **BALTIC COAST STEAM EXPLORER**

DEPARTS: Sunday 31 July 2022



Our ever-popular tour of Northern Germany that includes the superb 'Molli' with the street running through the town of Bad Doberan and then runs to the Baltic seaside resort of Kühlungsborn. As ever we combine the tour to include the Rügen Island's 15 miles long 750 mm Rasender Roland line. We have also timed the tour to feature a visit to the standard gauge Bruchausen-Vilsen Railway Steam Festival. This great tour also includes steam on the rarely visited, by UK groups, standard gauge Jan Harpstedt line plus a vintage tram charter and a cruise on a steam boat!



FESTIVE STEAM IN SAXONY

DEPARTS: Wednesday 30 November 2022



Enjoy the festive season with a Saxony Steam escorted rail holiday combining two fabulous mainline steam excursions, a steam hauled excursion from Dresden to the historic Polish city of Breslau (Wroclaw), three wonderful Saxon narrow-gauge steam lines and tours of

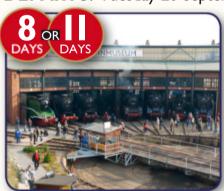
Dresden Alstadt steam depot and the Transport Museum, as well as a visiting both Dresden and Leipzig traditional Christmas Markets where only local products manufactured in the region are sold.



Dresden Steam Festival & SAXON NARROW GAUGE



DEPARTS: Tuesday 20 September 2022



Last autumn this fabulous and popular tour re-commenced our post Covid lockdown steam tours programme and was enjoyed by one and all. We now heartily invite you to join the 2022 departure of this spectacular tour. As always, we will be offering you both the shorter 8 day version, if your time is limited, or join the hugely enjoyable

extended tour that is II days of steam magic that includes the truly unique Dresden Steam Festival. Both tours feature 4 mainline steam excursions and Saxon narrow gauge lines travelling across the rolling meadows of Saxony. The longer I I day tour extension takes us to the high hills on a plethora of world famous Saxon Narrow-Gauge lines.



BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM CELEBRATION

DEPARTS: Tuesday 27 December 2022



Enjoy an extra special New Year tour steaming through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting including three steam excursions. New Year's Eve and celebration meal will be spent in the stunning city of Freiburg as well as a tour of city at the 'Gateway to the Black Forest' by vintage tram. Thrilling excursions include steaming

through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollembahn steam line. Spend an afternoon on the steam trains of the Schwarzwaldbahn between Triberg, St Georgen and Haslach plus enjoy a third celebration of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lakeside to almost 1000m.



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Please feel free to give us a call to discuss your needs

And in case you were wondering... Albert is the dog.













GAUGEMASTER Analogue Control



Choose your controller for life with the Gaugemaster Lifetime Guarantee...

We have been producing Model Railway Controllers for over forty 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.



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.

Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts

SERIES U

GMC-U Single Track Controller with Simulation

GMC-D Twin Track Controller

Most Suited to HO/OO/N Scale Layouts



GMC-Q Four Track Controller Most Suited to OO/HO/N Scale Layouts



The best selling four track controller available today. It offers impressive value for money with its four 12V DC track outputs, and two of 16V AC and 12V DC outputs for accessories.



PANEL MOUNTED CONTROLLERS

GMC-100 Single Track Panel Controller Most Suited to OO/HO/N/Z Scale Layouts



Some modellers may wish to incorporate their controller into an overall panel to control their layout. The Model 100 Controller has a single 12V DC output.



With the brake knob controlling the 12V DC track output, this controller allows you greater realismwhen running locomotives.



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.

Single Track Walkabout Controller



£42.50

£46.50

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 Just plug it in and connect it up!



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PRICES

Cased Controllers

GMC-COMBI	Single Track Controller/Transformer	£47.50
GMC-100M	Single Track Controller	£120.00
GMC-100MO	Single Track Controller for O Scale	£125.00
GMC-10LGB	Single Track Controller for G Scale	£130.00
GMC-10LGB5F	Single Track Controller for G Scale with Fan	£220.00
GMC-P	Single Track Controller with Simulation	£130.00
GMC-D	Twin Track Controller	£130.00
GMC-DS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation	£205.00
GMC-TS	Three Track Controller with Simulation	£225.00
GMC-Q	Four Track Controller	£235.00

GMC-100	Single Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1)	£47.50
GMC-100.O	Single Track Controller for O Scale (GMC-T2/M2)	£52.50
GMC-U	Single Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£57.50
GMC-UF	Single Track Controller with Feedback (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£52.50
GMC-UO	Single Track Controller with Simulation for O (GMC-T2/M2)	£75.00
GMC-UD	Twin Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£67.50
GMC-UDS	Twin Track Controller with Simulation (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£95.00
GMC-UQ	Four Track Controller (GMC-T1/M1/WM1)	£105.00

See the GM365 Gaugemaster Catalogue (£5.00) for more details

Walkabout and Hand Held Controllers

GMC-W

GMC-HH

GMC-M1	Cased Transformer 16V AC	£62.50
GMC-M2	Cased Transformer 18V AC 2.5V	£62.50
GMC-M3	Cased Transformer 24V AC	£62.50
GMC-M4	Cased Transformer 12V AC	£62.50
GMC-T1	Open Transformer 2x 16V AC 1a	£32.50
GMC-T2	Open Transformer 18V AC 2.5a	£32.50
GMC-T3	Open Transformer 24V AC	£32.50
GMC-T4	Open Transformer 2x 12V AC 1a	£32.50
GMC-WM1	Wall Mounted Transformer 16V or 12V DC 1.1a	£26.00
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GMC-WM3	Wall Mounted Transformer Kato Unitrack UK Power Supply	£21.00
GMC-WM4	Wall Mounted Transformer 12v DC Smoothed for Lighting	£21.00
GMTFK1	Transformer Fitting Kit for T1/T3/T4	£15.50
GMTFK2	Transformer Fitting Kit for T2	£15.50

Single Track Handheld Controller with Feedback

GAUGEMASTER products are available from your local model shop or, in case of difficulty, direct from ourselves GAUGEMASTER Controls Ltd, Ford Road, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 OBN, United Kingdom **E&OE** tel - 01903 884488 fax - 01903 884377 email - sales@gaugemaster.com

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DCC Decoder Tester Just £24.95

With our brand new DCC decoder tester you can check all your DCC decoders before fitting them. Tests 6, 8 and 21 pin decoders up to 6 functions. Very easy to use, just clip to your track, plug in your decoder and control as normal. Clear LED indicators show the status of all functions, headlights, motor output etc. Full instructions included. Works with all DCC controllers!!



Cobra Cable baseboard wiring system

9 way £22.95 15 way £26.95 25 way £36.95

Building an exhibition layout? Then you need our Cobra Cable! Two terminal boards fit either side of a baseboard joint and our ingenious cable connects the two. Unlike off-the-shelf cables we make ours from 16/02 cable capable of carrying 3A per terminal meaning it can carry all your electrical signals across a baseboard joint including **point motor** wiring and DCC bus connections. When it's time to dismantle, simply unplug the cable at either end. Comes as a complete kit with two easy wire terminal boards, 1m Cobra Cable and full instructions.



Warm white 12VDC LED modules

Our own design! These tiny 12V LED modules easily fit inside a building and create a warm white glow to simulate incandescent bulbs. Simply connect to any 12VDC supply or our 12VDC distribution board. Just £2.99 each or £9.99 for a pack of 10.





LOCO GO! - Wheel AND pickup cleaner - 200ml just £6.99

J-J-J-Juddering L-L-L-Loco? You need new Loco Go! from Hobby Trax. Most wheel cleaners only clean the running surfaces of the wheels. Our spray formula cleans the wheels and pickups. Simply spray on and see the difference! For all DC and DCC locos



Cable and wire - huge stocks on our website

Bk Bn Rd Or Yw Bl Vi Gy Wt Pk

NEW PRODUCT - Track Gapper 00 gauge Struggling to lay tracks side-by-side so coaches don't crash into each other on curves? Try our new Track Gapper! This handy tool is used to space tracks next to each other on curves or straights. Correctly spaces for curves, cross-overs, fiddle yards and straight tracks. Simply use the grooves on the tool to lay your tracks. An ideal tool for every modeller – just £9.99



New from Hobby Trax: NCE Programming track switch

Like the NCE PowerCab controller but wish it had a programming track? Well now you can add one! Simply connect our switch unit and have a dedicated programming track. Also features a unique isolate function to switch everything off to allow you to work on any part of your layout. Very simple plug-andplay installation, no soldering required. Full instructions included, fits to all existing setups. **Just £12.99**

We include one FREE with every NCE controller we sell!!



Hornby set track - all parts available

R600 / R601 straights £2.30/£2.75 R602 Analogue power clip £2.95 R603 long straight £4.79 R606 2nd radius curve £1. R609 3rd radius curve £2.70 R636 Double track crossing £30.95 R910 Fishplates (12pk) £3.19 R920 Insulated fishplates (12pk) £2.39 R8008 Grand suspension bridge £42.95 R8072 / R8073 Std points £11.45 R8076 Y point £14.95 R8077 / R8078 Express point £17.99

NEW - DCC Decoder Putty Just £2.59

What is it? It's a high strength black putty that holds decoders in place. Supplied as a 20cm length enough for 20-30 decoders

ANNOUNCING THE EYE-CHOO CAMERA WAGON!

Ever wondered what your layout looks like from the drivers eye view? Well now you can film it using our brand new camera wagon! Simply couple our wagon to the front of your loco, press the record button and send it round your track. Our camera will

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Hobby Trax Scenic range

We have a rapidly expanding range of scenery products covering all seasons and gauges! Ballast from £7.99 per kg. Huge 50g lichen bag £4.99. Coal (various grades) 250g £2.99 All very clean and not dusty!



NEW PRODUCT - Light upgrades for Hornby Intercity 125 We have developed a new range of products to improve the lighting on the original Hornby Intercity 125's. Fix those faulty lights with our new kit comprising new brighter bulbs and reflective foil to remove the light spill around the drivers cab window. Supplied with detailed fitting instructions Just £2.95

Now available LED version with red and white LED's changing according to the direction of travel. Works with both DC and DCC! Just £10.95 per pair. Full instructions supplied.



DC and DCC Bus Bar with isolate function

Struggling to wire bus connections under your layout? Our new Bus Bar makes it easy! For DCC use simply fit one of our boards under your layout every few feet or so and connect all your droppers to the nearest board. 16 easy screw terminals give up to 5A per board. Got a short circuit somewhere? Use the . unique isolate function to help you find out where. Also ideal for DC use to split a PSU output. £5.95 each

A5 - Two road loco shed

SuperQuick kits - full range on our website A1 – Station platform £6.99

NEW SERVICE – Want it ready-built? Due to growing demand we have now hired a full-time cardboard construction engineer (yes it's a real ob!) and we will now build ANY SuperQuick kit to professional standards for just £20. Search our website for "SuperQuick Ready Built"

Second hand treasures!

In response to requests we will be listing a selection of second hand items in our adverts. Our second hand items sel quickly but we will do our best to ensure these are available at the time of publication. Be quick if you see something you

like as it won't be around for long! R2888M Kingfisher Train Pack £260 R836 Coronation Scot train set £185 R696 Intercity 225 train set £100 R1136 Yorkshire Pullman train set £170 R869 Flying Scotsman train set £100 Coaches and wagons from £5.00



£10.99

We also buy second hand items – call us for more details! Wherever possible we test the items and describe them as accurately as possibl

New Product - Replacement DCC Controller cables

We now offer a range of replacement cables of various lengths for Gaugemaster and NCE controllers.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!!!

We have also recently taken delivery of a huge selection of railway books. Mostly hardback covering live steam, many rare and out of print books all in great condition. Please see our website fo a full list. Prices from just £1 each!



Just need a single item? Try our eBay shop where all products include postage! www.ebay.co.uk/str/hobbytrax

"The biggest model shop in Lochgilphead!"



Magnetic corner clamps (Sm, Md, Lg) £6.99, £7.99, £8.99 Tyson CDU (std/xtra) £10.95 / £14.95

SPECIAL PRICE DCC Controllers

NCE Power Cab UK Starter set £179.95 Now with free programming track switch! Hobby Trax DCC Controller (Shush it's a secret

NCE CONTROLLER CADDY





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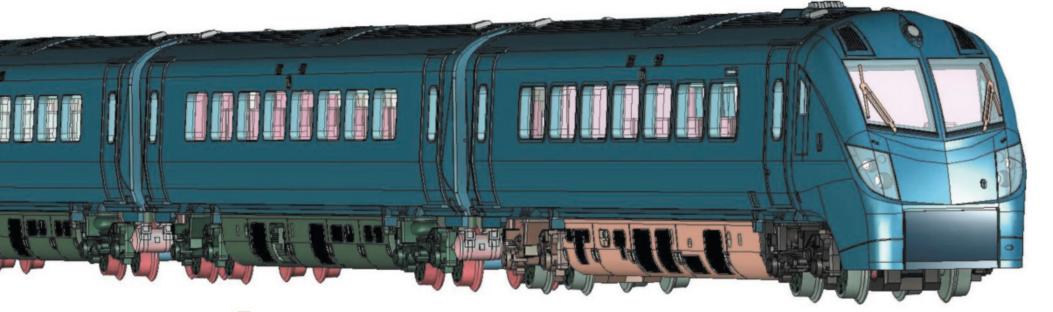
Did you know?

Hall Class locomotive "St. Martin" was built in December 1924 and withdrawn from service in April 1959. During this time it had two running numbers 2925 and 4900 and had clocked up over 2,092,500 miles!



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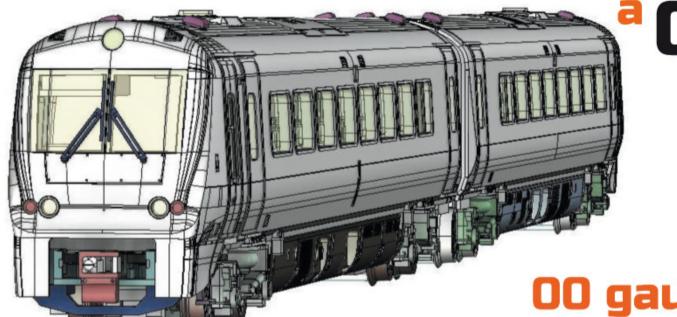
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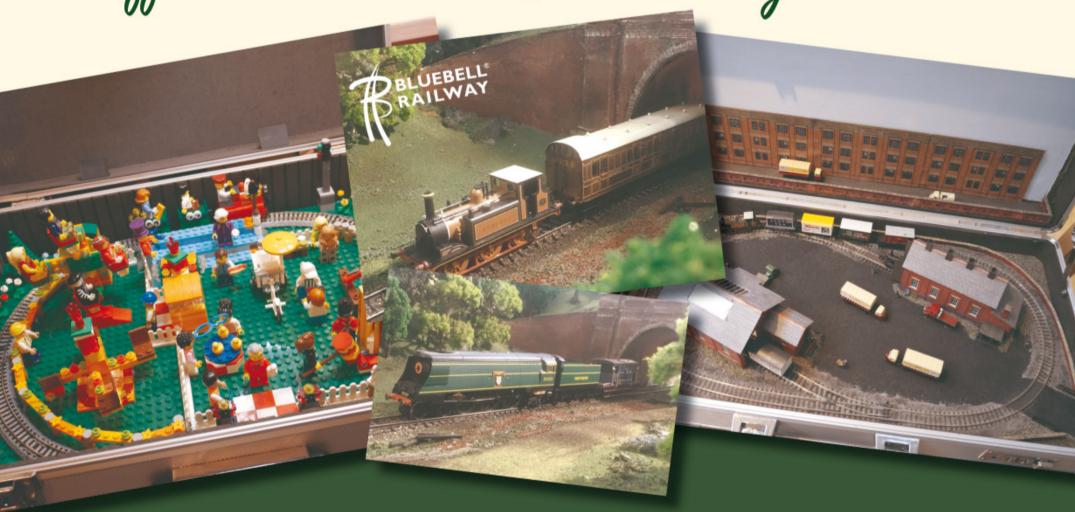
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N Gauge CADs shown



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Expect an array of tiny worlds, brought to life by the steam and diesel locomotives that wind their way along the tracks. We have a great selection of Model Railways featuring including N, O, double O gauge and gauge 1 layouts from across the country, displayed in the Locomotive Maintenance Shed at Sheffield Park Station and the Carriage and Wagon Workshop at Horsted Keynes Station, usually not open to the public.

Alongside the displays will be trade stands offering a variety of modelling products including engines, rolling stock, and local produce. You can also visit our railway shop at Sheffield Park where we have a great selection of models, accessories and other products available from beginners sets to full layouts.

We will also be running a steam hauled service from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead Stations all weekend.

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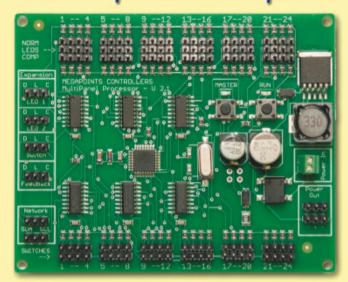
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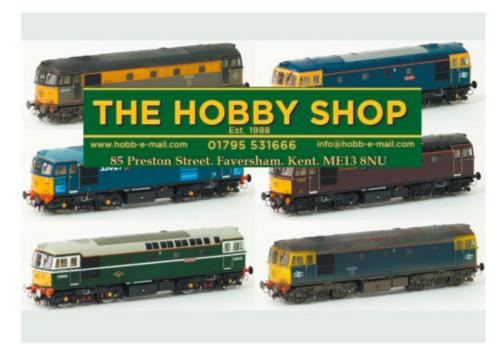
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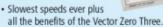
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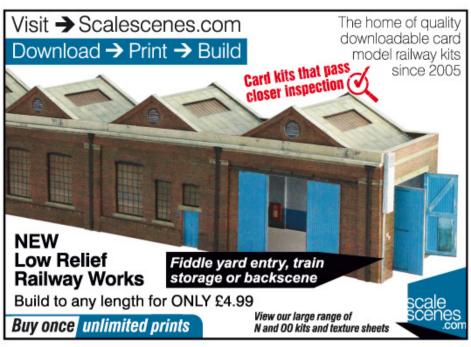
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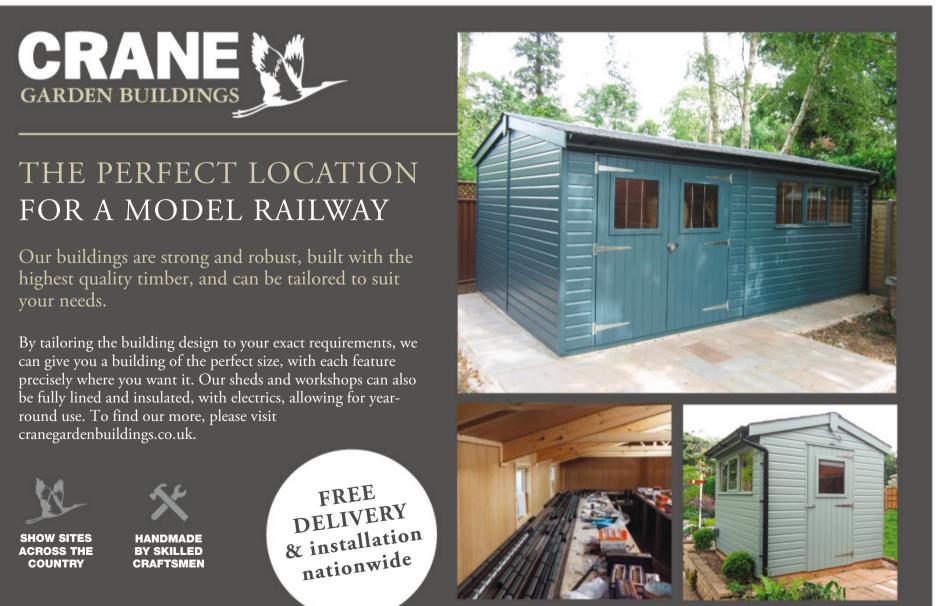
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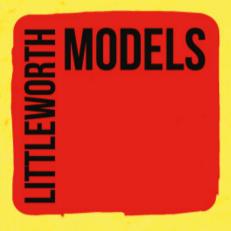
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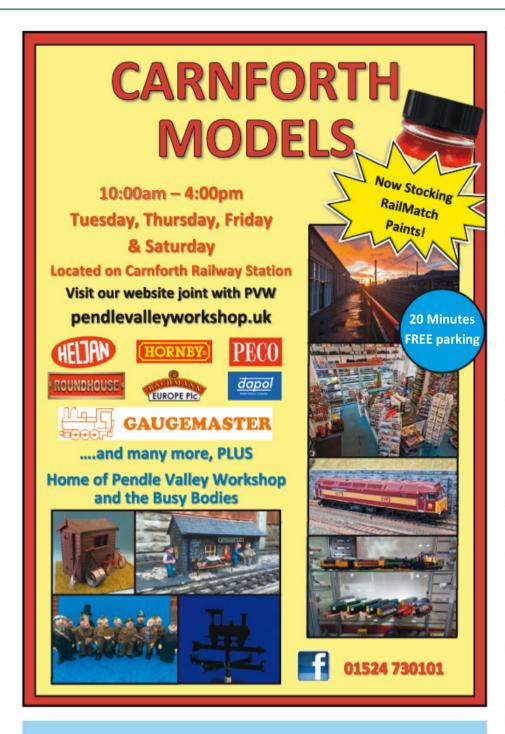
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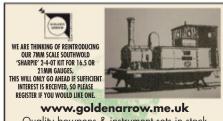
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Present your case

If there's a prototype that you think needs to be offered ready-to-run, here's the place to voice your opinion...

Locomotive: British Rail Class 74 electro-diesel

Gauge: '00'

Proposed by: David Rowland, Southampton

What is it?

COLOUR RAIL

Based on the success of its Class 73
electro-diesel locomotive, the Southern
Region wanted a more powerful version for
boat train work and heavier freight duties.
Unsurprisingly, the British Railways Board
(BRB) required a strong business case before
authorising an all-new locomotive design,
especially when only a small fleet was
required. Therefore, Southern Region
management took advantage of the fact
that ten Class 71 electric locomotives had
recently been made redundant, duly
converting them to electro-diesel power as
a cheaper alternative.

So far so simple. Alas, the reality proved to be very different: fitting a diesel engine into a space never designed to take one - and connecting it to Bulleid's esoteric motorgenerator set - proved to be a very expensive and time-consuming operation. The decision was also made to replace the dual controls of the Class 73 with a troublesome electronic system allowing for a single power controller. To make matters worse, the ASLEF union 'blacked' the locomotives for a while, because it was necessary to exit the locomotive via the engine room - bad news if there was a

fire. A bulkhead was added, but this made for an even more cramped environment.

These locomotives proved to be fast and

These locomotives proved to be fast and powerful but very temperamental and more expensive to build than a new locomotive would have been. With the reduction in boat and newspaper traffic, plus the various technical problems, the fleet had a short life of barely ten years.

What would make it viable?

Two manufacturers introduced the Class 71 in 'OO' gauge at about the same time, so neither would have been able to maximise the return on their investment. Consequently, some of this development work could be used to produce the Class 74. As it comes from the same prototype, the chassis would require very little work and the body would 'only' need new side and roof panels and push-pull gear. On the downside, Kernow Model Rail Centre failed in its bid to produce this model by crowdfunding, but many potential buyers would want to see the finished product before pledging their cash. Heljan has had the confidence to produce several short-lived or one-off locomotive types and KR Models has made a speciality of producing rare and obscure examples, so I have no doubt that the Class 74 would be a successful addition to the main line electric fleet.

Can I see a real one?

No, they were all scrapped upon withdrawal.

Have your say

Do you agree with David's argument? Join the debate on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/modelrail

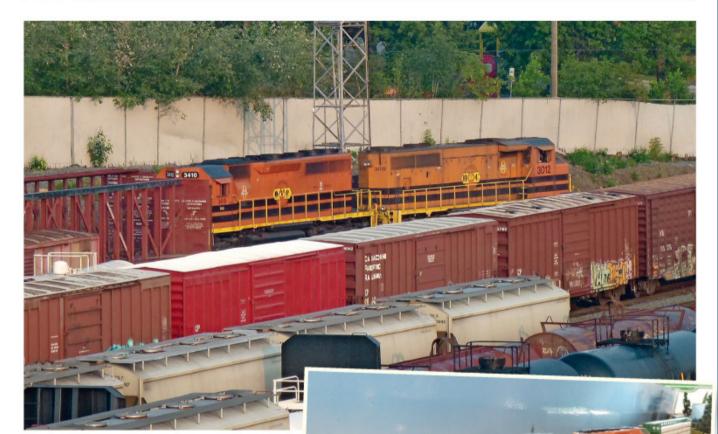
How to join in

Want to present your own case? Send us 400 words explaining your choice to modelrail@bauermedia.co.uk, putting 'Present Your Case' in the subject line.





Chris Leigh offers meanderings we couldn't fit into the issue elsewhere, but which seemed terribly important at the time...



Familiar livery far away

Some years ago Model Rail featured overseas modelling topics in the various manifestations of Model Rail International in order to broaden the hobby and the range of subjects which we could cover. There was always resistance from traditionalist readers whose only interest was in the railways of Britain, and eventually we had to admit defeat.

However, that did not mean that staff gave up their personal overseas interests and in recent years I have done at least as much work on my Canadian 'HO' layout as on my three British-outline layouts in 'N', 'OO', and 'O' gauges.

Modellers who follow current British practice will doubtless recognise the livery of Genesee & Wyoming in the two accompanying photographs as it is the livery now carried by Freightliner locomotives in the UK. Like a lot of 'Brits', I've long been fascinated by 'underdogs' particularly those underdog, minor railways and G&W owns a few of those.

Back in 2018 I planned my last (thanks to the pandemic) Canadian vacation to include the 300-mile Sudbury to White River trip. It had actually been featured on TV as one of Chris Tarrant's *Extreme Rail Journeys*. There are just six roads crossed, and about three stations in those 300 miles but the train stops at fishing lakes, hunting lodges and private dwellings which have no other access.

My journey began at Sudbury,

Above: Working over the trestle on my 'HO' layout, GP40-2 HC No. 3012 is an Atlas model while SD40-2 OVR No. 3410 is a repainted Broadway Limited model. Both came with DCC sound installed.

Top: Seen from my hotel room window, this was as close as I got to Huron Central GP40-2 No. 3012 and Ottawa Valley Railink SD40-2 No. 3410 as they switched Sudbury yard in summer 2018. CHRIS LEIGH

where the 173-mile Huron Central Railway (owned by G&W) connects with Canadian Pacific. My hotel room overlooked Sudbury station and yard where two G&W locomotives were assembling a train to take back to Sault Ste Marie.

I like to have models of trains on which I've travelled and locomotives that I've seen, so I set about creating these two in 'HO' scale. The lighter coloured model was bought new in G&W livery and I simply changed the New England Central logos to Huron Central using a Microscale decal sheet. Sadly, Microscale has dropped the G&W from its range owing to a licensing issue.

The SD40-2 was a complete repaint, hence the difference in shade of the orange, although closer inspection of the photograph does show a difference in shade between the two full-size locomotives. From watching various clips on YouTube it does seem that HCR GP40s are a lighter shade than the SD40-2s that often accompany them. So, by chance, my models are more accurate than I thought.

Not-so-targeted internet selling

As someone who uses Ebay and Amazon and various other online operations to both research availability and from which to buy stuff from time to time, I've become accustomed to the daftness of so-called targeted selling. It is a perpetual hazard of anything one does on computers these days. I blame 'cookies,' whatever they are. On Ebay, I occasionally bid on original colour slides which might be useful for publication. Whenever I'm outbid on a slide, Ebay notifies me and offers an alternative without grasping that I bid on a particular slide because it was a location or locomotive that I was interested in.

However, things really reached a state of farce when I was looking for the Wild Swan book on the Camerton Branch for my Titfield feature. The book is out of print and I was amused to find that Google offered me Enid Blyton's *Noddy* as an alternative!

Outwell... then and now

I was fascinated by the Wisbech & Upwell tramway long before I came to live in the East Midlands. Indeed, it first caught my interest as a child when I was given a copy of Rev. Awdry's *Toby the Tram Engine*. Years later a *Steam World* reader – another Reverend – Ivan Lilley gave me this painting of the tram and a Morris Minor at Outwell Basin. He called the painting 'Old Traction, new attraction', the 'J70' and the car setting the scene in the 1950s.

Some years ago I went in search of the exact location just to see if I could recognise it. It has changed but the cottage is still there, though the wide verge is a little overgrown. We still have some of our exclusive 'J70' models but if you want a skirted example in BR livery you'll need to do a little repainting and numbering job. It really isn't difficult.



'Old traction, new attraction' by Ivan Lilley depicts the Wisbech-Upwell goods at Outwell Basin.



The same location as it was some seven years ago. CHRIS LEIGH

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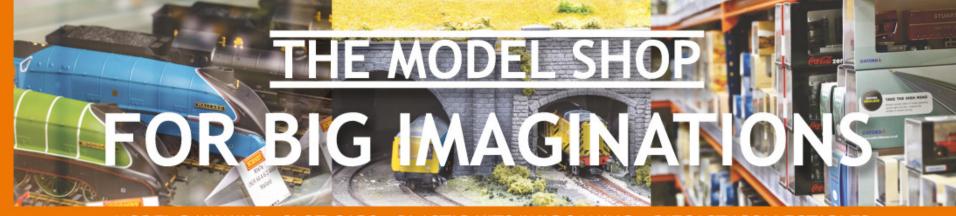


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