



Risborough and District
Model Railway Club

Oct-Dec 2019 Autumn

FOOTPLATE



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WELCOME

Hello everyone and welcome to Autumn, the days getting shorter so less time in the garden and more in the modelling room.

In September the club had a trip to the Ted Martin's Garden & Woodland Railway for it's final running day before the site was sold and turned it into a miniature Risborough Venturer trip. The scale headboards were drawn, cut on our laser and assembled by James, David Powell painted them and I made the fixing brackets and adaptors. Read about the visit on page 10 and ask Ian about the size of the tunnel! Another group went to Fawley Hill in August, see page 14. More photos of these events can be found on our website along with photos from Romney Hythe & Dymchurch and the SVR trip.

We have increased the membership recently so welcome to all the new members. Due to this increased membership we have purchased 4 more modelling lamps. When we have our own clubroom we will invest in some more and some different designs including magnifier lamps.

October is a busy month for the club with our Openday, photo competition and resin casting workshops so there will not be a test track night in October. David Lane is planning a series of 3D CAD workshops over the next few months and the dates will be published shortly. Mick is also looking at the possibility of running a DCC sound workshop.

We are in the process of finalising the agreement with the school to lease the area of land for our new club room. Hopefully we will have more news for you in the new year regarding the building. We are making progress.

Paul

From the Internet

North Norfolk Railway, Autumn Steam Gala, Saturday 31st August 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2ExAlwiNi8>

Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway - Steam Gala 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-ldy7XOK_4

01 0509-8 mit "Käferzug" von Marienberg nach Naumburg u.z., 31.08.2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0D4WMEUt7w>

Crich Tramway Village

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICXFWd2Oby8>

Ffestiniog Railway - 3rd August 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BuPTtAYIKw>

The Mid Hants Railway Members Weekend 14/09/19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx70_H15GSI

Australia: Queensland Railways C16 Class Steam Loco Model in Action

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZv6hYqpr7g>

Railcam York ROC Camera 1 - in Partnership with Network Rail, [https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zHb90p2HKQ)

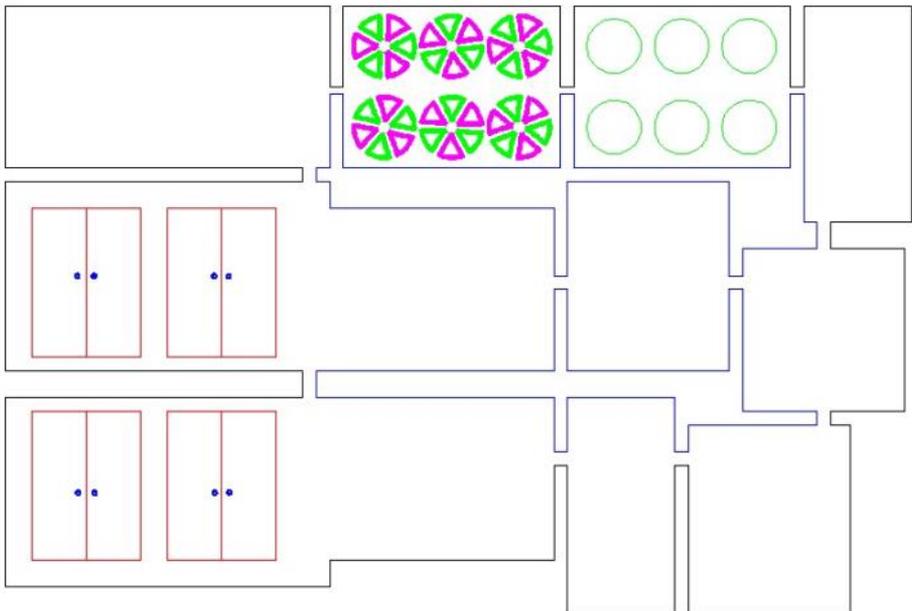
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zHb90p2HKQ

Front cover: Andy Gelson with his Schools class loco at the Ted Martin's Garden & Woodland Railway Risborough Venturer trip. Photo by Paul

Lasercut Aircon Unit– a simple CAD example

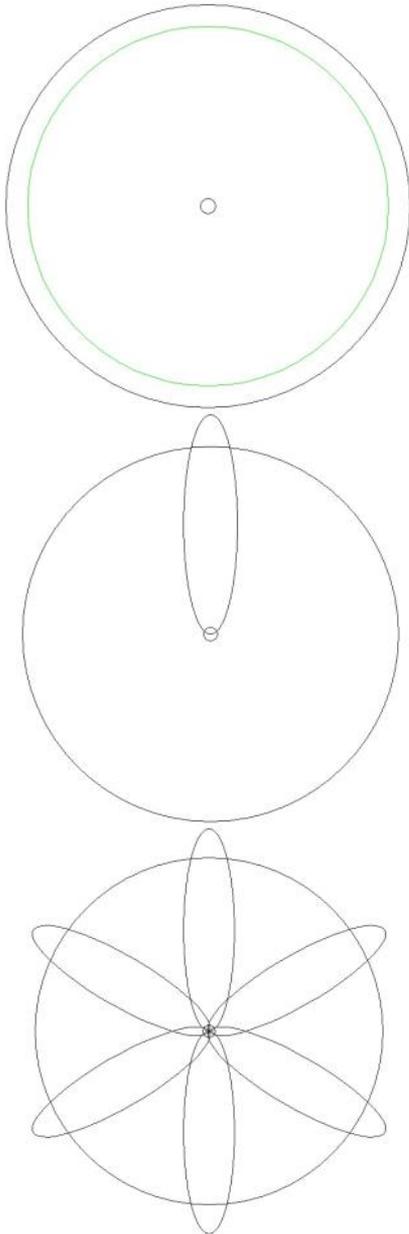
I have been busy with the laser again and have produced an aircon unit which will be installed on the roof of my N scale Department store. So if you re thinking of designing something to cut here are some tips and an example. The aircon unit is basically a box with doors and 6 fans. The fans are 2 layers: the top layer is simply 6 holes and the lower layer has the fan detail. There are a number of things to note:

- 1 All the parts are arranged close together for cutting, this model uses a 70 x 50mm piece of 0.5mm Romark. I do not draw the items like this but arrange them at the end.
- 2 All the parts have small tags <1mm to hold the parts together. This prevents small parts from dropping through the cutter bed and getting lost. It also prevents parts from moving during cutting. The more cuts you put into thin Rowmark the more it will try to curl so tabs are also needed to keep it flat.
- 3 Colours are used to control the order the laser cuts in, so in this example red (doors) is a half depth cut which is done first, then the full depth cuts in green, magenta and blue. Finally the outline of the parts is cut which is the black line. Each colour is a different layer in the drawing.
- 4 The fan blades have been drawn with thick lines. The laser does not cut thicker lines, it only has one width which is approximately 0.3mm. The thick lines allow me to see how the cut part will look and make sure I have a complete fan and not a pile of separate blades.



I use TurboCAD to produce the drawings. This is simply because I have used this program for many years and know how to operate it. Other CAD program can do the same thing.

This is how I drew the fans:

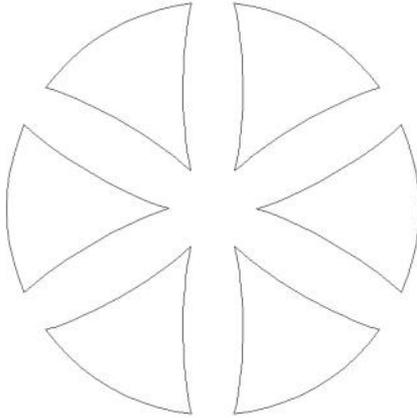


Start with the holes to get the positions of the fans, (green circle).

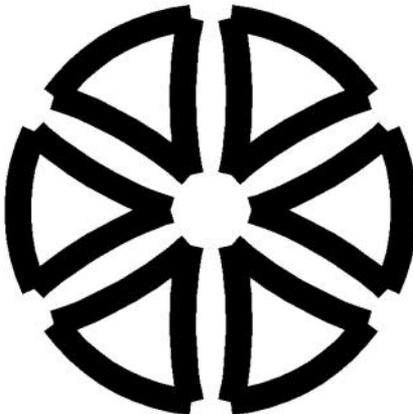
Mark the centre position with a small circle and then draw a larger circle which will be the outer edge of the fan. You could use construction lines instead of the small circle to mark the fan centres.

Remove the green circle, it was just a size guide and is no longer needed. Draw an ellipse to form the fan blade.

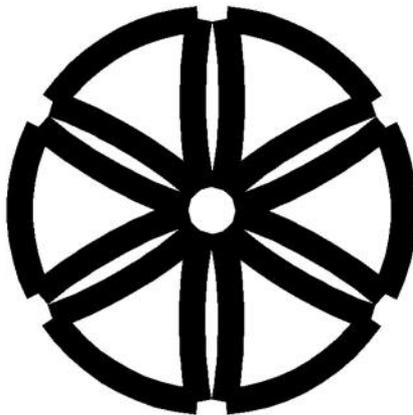
Use a array copy to produce 6 blades. This can be done by telling the software you want 6 blades or you want blades at 60 degree angles positioned around the centre point.



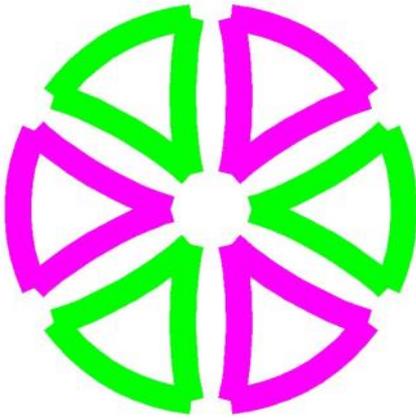
Cut away the unwanted parts to complete the fan.



Check the width of the blades by making the line 0.3mm wide. This shows the actual cut of the laser. Note: to get the finest laser line the laser cutter must be focused before you start cutting. If not, the laser will cut a wider line. The ellipse needs to be wider than you first think, in this case it is almost half the width when cut compared to the drawing.



In this example the ellipse was too narrow so when cut it all the fan blades would fall out so you just have a hole not a fan. It looked good when viewed with the thin lines you create the drawing with.



Finally the parts can be put into the correct drawing layers if you did not do that when drawing and given colours. With very fine parts it helps if you do not cut both sides of the part in the same pass of the laser. The laser puts heat into the plastic and this can cause some distortion of the part. Use 2 colours to control how the cuts are made. All the green parts will be cut first across the whole drawing, then all the magenta parts. This gives the area of the first cut time to cool. The same technique applies to cutting

windows. Now use copy & paste to produce as many fans as you need, in this case 6.



The finished aircon unit painted in a metallic silver with a wash of sepia. It will get a dusting of weathering powder to complete the dirty effect and a piece of black paper will go under the fans. There will be 3 of these on the roof with ducting from Unit Models and some plastic and brass pipework.



Here is the roof with the aircon units and ducting roughly in place showing how busy it all is. There are still more pipes to be attached.

Finally, make use of the drawing grid to get parts the right size and in the right place. I start with a 1mm grid to get the basic shapes done and then reduce the grid to 0.5mm and 0.25mm as I draw in the details. Keep changing the grid to suit the item being drawn.

Paul

Rubbish and Recycling

Recycling will be collected each club night, this includes card, plastic bottles and cans. Please leave it in the kitchen or the box/bag provided.

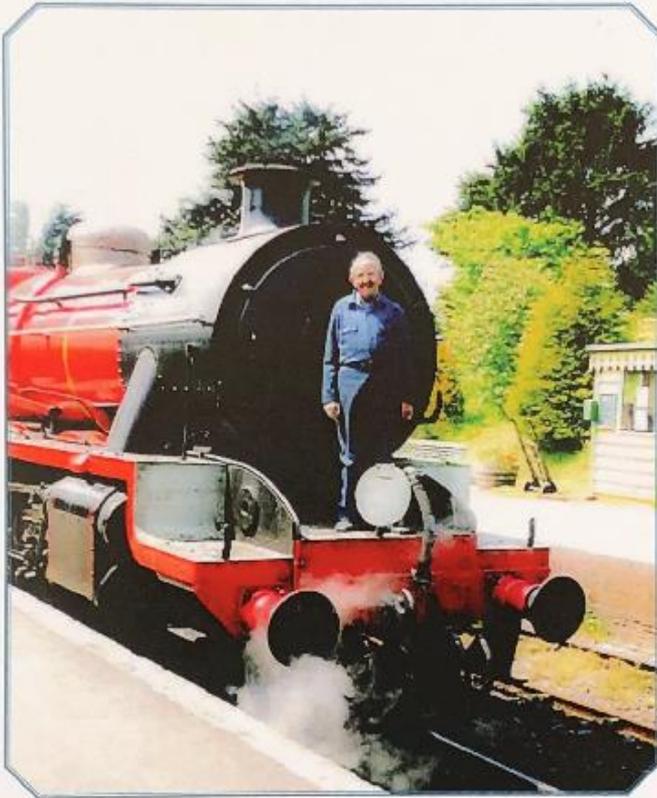
Please remember to put a black plastic bag in the dustbin before use and empty it when full. There is a wheeled metal bin at the end of the community centre; please put our bags in there when they are full. There is a key in the kitchen. Spare bin bags are under our fridge.

Articles for Publication in Footplate

Articles should be sent at least 1 month before publication dates, i.e. beginning of March, June, September and December for publication in April, July, October and January. Plain text, no formatting, photos as large as possible.

David Frederick Cooper

25th May 1936 - 28th August 2019



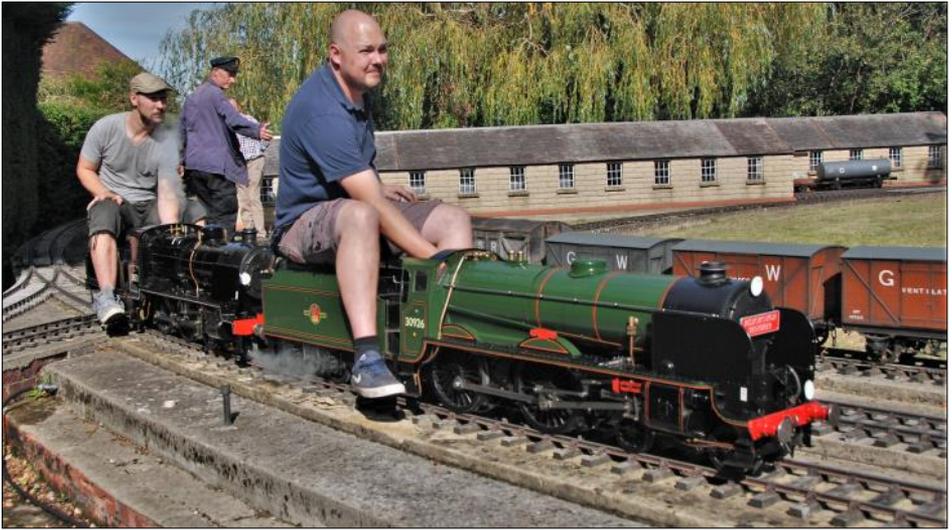
Sadly, I have to report the death of David Cooper who was a R&DMRC member for several years.

The funeral took place in Stone and was attended by Mick Moignard, James Aitken, Judith Baxendale and Gary Day.

Ted Martin's Garden and Woodland Railway's Last Ever Open Day

Venue: A huge private garden in Thame on Sunday 15th September

Half a dozen 7¼ inch gauge locos were in steam on this bright sunny late summer day. About 35 'invitation only' R&DMRC members turned up to enjoy an action packed afternoon soaking up the atmosphere of this wonderful railway, riding on the trains, wandering about the landscaped garden exploring the several junctions, inclines and tunnels that feature across the general set-up, on which (almost*) continuous running kept us well occupied all afternoon.



The splendid hospitality extended to us all, mainly by the WAG's of the loco driving team, included hot and cold drinks and a range of cakes. The array of cakes came close to rivalling the spread of cakes our own annual February 'Cakex' exhibition in Risborough presents to visitors – And all they asked for were 'donations' in a tin towards their running costs (just like our Railex vintage bus).

The loco's in steam were a mixture of TMG&WR's own locos (all G.W.R.) and 3 'guest locos': TMG&WR loco's were a 'Dean Goods'; a 47xx class 'Night Owl'; and 'Saint' class 'Robin Hood'. The visiting loco's were a '9F'; and B.R. liveried Southern Region 'Schools' class and an 'N' Mogul. A number of other TMG&WR loco's not operating on the day included a couple of 'Kings, a 'Western' diesel and a diesel shunter parked round the back of the shed by the turntable.



Both Southern locos were provided by Andy Gelson, whose brother Richard helped by driving one of them. Their Dad, Alan, a former R&DMRC member, along with daughter Hazel, were there too). For the record, it was through Alan's mention of the R&DMRC to the TMG&WR 'management' that our club got this invitation in the first





place, c/o the TMG&WR's general manager, Ian.

Ted Martin was something of an inventor possessing a huge engineering 'bent'. This was in evidence in TM's little workshop, wherein such gems as a nearly complete 7¼ inch gauge model of the GWR's only Pacific loco, 'Great Bear' languishes, along with





a Ted Martin designed and built 3 litre V8 Formula 1 engine (it looks a bit like a Cosworth F1 engine of that '60s/'70s era). Little gems indeed!

The day's running, providing rides for passengers sitting on the roof of a set of GWR liveried coaches, were all double-headed (have you ever seen a 2-10-0 '9F' spin its wheels? – The '9F' running that day did just that several times AND provided a light engine run-through of the (straight) track to the turntable at the rear of the shed, past spectators doing (I swear) what looked like a scale 70+mph!

*One other 'incident' I'm told that very rarely ever happened on the TMG&WR was a bit of a bang and a few shouts of alarm that drew an audience – The 2-8-0 47xx 'Night Owl', wearing one of our 'Risborough Venturer' headboards, had come adrift on a set of points when approaching the station area (perhaps a bit too quickly?). All ten wheels of the loco were off the rails; but after uncoupling from the loco behind it and the train, it was back running after a hold up of no more than 10 minutes or so, with the help of about 6 people struggling to lift it back onto the track. Fortunately, no damage was done and the 47xx continued running impeccably for the rest of the afternoon!

....And so, as the TMG&WR operations drew to a sad end on Sunday 15th September, all that's left are some photos taken on the day (of which I'm sure hundreds were taken by all present) – Here are a few to help capture that wonderful place for posterity.

Pete J. 16th September 2019.

Visit to Fawley Hill Railway and Museum



Early this year I had a chance meeting with 2 of the volunteers that help to run and maintain the museum and railway at Fawley Hill. They said that following success of the Great Model Railway Challenge which was filmed there they were having 4 open days this year and gave me the information on the application process as there is a limit on the number of visitors they can manage in a day.





Having been there myself of course for the TV programme I wanted a chance to see the museum at last and to ride a train around the grounds so applied for some tickets for the Ealing Road team but it quickly became apparent that many of the members of the club would welcome the chance for a visit as well. I was given an allocation of 38 places for the second of this year's open days (the first being fully booked by the time I made my inquiry)

So on Sunday 11th of July a party of 34 of us visited Fawley. The party apart from the Ealing road team and their partners was made up from our membership and partners and some members of the Hemel Hempstead Model Railway Society. Just before the visit and to my surprise I was given a ticket for one of the party to have a footplate ride on the day! Names of the visitors that were interested donated £10 to enter a draw which was picked by Paul on a club night with the winner being David Lane. The donations summed to £200 which was split and donated to the club funds of both R&DMRC and HHMRS. The sign on the way into Fawley probably says it all as it states "Welcome to Fawley Hill twinned with Narnia & Middle Earth" You then enter walking past some Pullman coaches, some rolling stock and a signal box to arrive at a station in the middle of nowhere in particular. The station came from Somersham in Cambridgeshire and was part of William McAlpine's passion to retain some of our railway heritage.



Above: David Lane on the loco footplate.

It was very busy with about 6 other visiting groups, two of which were car clubs so the car park had some interesting old cars to look at. It seems that Fawley soaks up people being a large site with lots of different things to do and see. So much so that I never saw everyone in our party during the course of the day.

The Museum.

The museum is an eclectic mix of all sorts of railway memorabilia, very wide ranging and hugely interesting. It starts with a large collection of stunning 0 gauge locomotives and then continues on and on with display cases of GWR Silver, Engineers tools, station paraphernalia, fine art railway scenes, working models, engineering samples, large gauge live steam locomotives etc etc. Every nook and cranny was packed with something of interest.

The Railway

The engine they use is a Hunslet Saddle Tank pulling a planked wagon and brake van. The train departs from the station down a 1.13 hill towards a sharp left bend! Brakes on, round the corner, down the hill past all sorts of salvaged

architecture to one end of the line. Forward again across a set of points (another signal box) to the other end of the estate. We are now in Scotland it seems as we passed a sign telling us that. Back to England, then past the signal box, points switched and up the hill. Stop first though and whistle to get the deer of the track, full throttle gets us up just and back into the station. What a ride, it's the steepest incline of any railway in the UK.

The train was packed all day running every 30 minutes and while the weather was sunny most of the day, late in the day there was a brief but heavy shower. The folks riding in the penultimate trip in the open planked wagon were soaked!

The Architecture



All around the grounds are a number of architectural features all of which stem from William McAlpine's habit of saying "send it home" when he discovered some feature about to be destroyed or scrapped. There is of course the "Iron Henge" which are concentric circles of iron pullers from the undercroft of St Pancras station, entrance arch to the parcels depot at St Pancras, the iron bridge skilfully landscaped to form the edge of a terraced garden, a very ornate London Chatham and Dover Railway sign, a wooden clock tower and a whole host of other things laying randomly or scattered around the grounds

The Animals

Last but not least one has to mention the animals, you can't miss them they are everywhere. Apparently there are 20 different species most running free and stem from a long association that Sir William had with the ZSL (London and Whipsnade Zoos). He started by taking unwanted usually male animals beginning with some deer. I spotted 3 types of them when I was there (they have 6 apparently) I also saw some wallabies in a large enclosure by the car park, emus, alpaca, llamas, peacocks and some meerkats in the walled garden. There are lots of other species about the place as well it would seem.



It was a great day out at a unique venue and thoroughly enjoyable

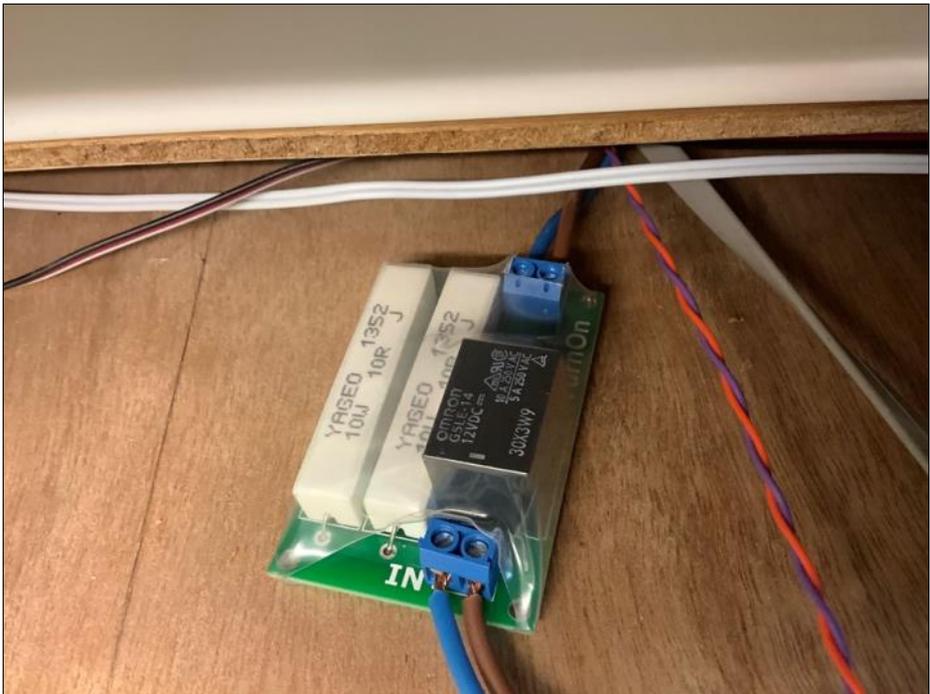
Barry

DCC Short Reset Fault

For probably a year or more my Digitrax DCS100 failed to reset after a short. The 00 layout is controlled by JMRI Panel Pro and would take 2 or 3 power resets to get the power returned. I happened to mention this to Paul and he informed about the Tam Valley Turn-On Module for Boosters. I obtained this from Coastal DCC for £17.59. This gives a soft start for the booster allowing the current to build up more slowly so the booster does not think there is still a short and not turn the power back on. This works by restricting the voltage/power through resistors until the voltage reaches 10V then a relay cuts in with full power to the track.

This never used to be a problem but over time as the collection of locos has increased to around 40 most of which will be on the layout and 15 fitted with sound plus quite a few with stay alive capacitors also some coaches fitted with lights the power on recovery from short caused the DCS 100 to fail to turn back on.

Fitting the device seems to have cured the problem completely. I have not had time to give a prolonged test. One interesting thing that did surprise me was that I was still expecting the DCS 100 to cut out when a short occurred and then reset but instead the relay on the soft start cuts the power then turns back on when the short has been removed and the DCS 100 stays on all the time.



That's the best I could do for a photo as its tucked under part of the layout. I covered it with clear heat shrink to protect it. Alec

Review of Severn Models Carpentry Tools Set

Casually looking at the kits available in the Severn Models display case and wondering how I could fit their lovely greenhouse onto my layout, I realised that the carpentry bench and tools might be an excellent addition to my engine shed which has big enough windows to be able to see inside. Ok, I know it's not quite right, as it really should be a metal working bench, but at least there would be some tools inside. So I bought a kit at Telford this year.

The kit consists of a single small etch with a bench, toolbox with separate trays, a tool tray and a variety of carpentry tools, including a plane and a mallet which you have to assemble, as well as three saws, screwdrivers, chisels, squares and pliers. It is cleanly etched and tabbed with half etched tabs to ease cutting out, which I did using Tamiya side cutters. All parts require minor filing just to remove the remains of the tabs, and folding. I used a "Hold and Fold" tool to fold the parts where required. All folds were easily done as they are properly half etched and require little force. The bench legs are tricky as they are only about 2mm square, so it is not possible to do all 4 folds using the tool. The last fold can be finished off by carefully squeezing the legs using a pair of flat pliers. The fit of parts is excellent. No trimming was needed on any part.

The instructions suggest gluing as the best way of assembling the parts, but I'm used to soldering kits so that is what I did, using 145 degree solder. The assembly came together quickly – I had all the bits made in two hours. You need to make the bench upside down, and getting the legs square on the bench top was hard. In the end I found that sticking a cocktail stick into the free end of the leg helped it stay put in the right place while I soldered the other end of the leg in position.

As with any brass kit, clean the parts using bar-tender's friend or similar, allow to dry, prime with etch primer which I apply using an old airbrush (don't use your best one as the paint etches the inside of it), and then paint with final colours to suit. I sprayed with etch primer first, and then hand painted with Tamiya acrylics.

All in all an excellent, well thought out and simple model which is a bit of fun to make. A bit bonkers too – the plane is tiny, 10mm long but is made of 4 separate parts, body, handle, blade and blade support which will challenge most of us!



Above: the workbench and tools in the engine shed on Padfracombe (O gauge).

James Aitken

September 2019

Modelling Saturdays

The following dates have been booked 09.00 to 17.00

Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 18, Feb 8

I try to arrange modelling Saturdays not to clash with other events but this is not always possible. If you are involved in or know of events that are likely to be of interest to our members then let me or Ant know so we can put them in the diary.

Paul

Test Track Nights

Here is the list of proposed test track nights. If you want to make use of the test track then you need to get it out and set it up in the Cherry Baker room. Don't wait for someone else to do it.

Nov 15, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 14

Due to other events, there is no test track night in October.

Laser Cutting Materials

In stock we have:

0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.5 & 3.2mm white plastic (Rowmark) with some 1.5 & 3.2mm in black. Sheets are 1220 by 610mm.

Clear acrylic in 0.5 & 1mm. Sheet sizes vary but some are 1000 by 1000mm.

MDF in: 1.5, 2, 3.2, 4 & 6mm, sheet sizes are 1220 by 600mm

The max size the cutter takes is about 350 by 450mm. The larger sheets will be cut down to approx. A3 or A4 and we will calculate the prices.

Club Diary

October	5	Club Annual Open Day
	10	Club Englefield Night at Radhuni Indian Restaurant, The Old Library, Church Street, Princes Risborough
	11	Modelling Workshop - Paul Wright's Resin Casting Workshop – Part 1: Mould Making
	18	Club Photographic Competition with Guest Judge and Speaker Geoff Plumb
	25	Modelling Workshop - Paul Wright's Resin Casting Workshop – Part 2: Casting
November	1	Trustees Meeting
	2	Wycrail, Cressex Community School, High Wycombe
	8	AGM (Annual General Meeting)
	9	Modelling Saturday
	15	Test Track
	15-17	Kirkmellington at Wakefield Railway Modellers' Society, Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Road, Wakefield
23-24	Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham	
December	6	Club Christmas Meal, The Peacock Country Inn, Henton, Nr Chinnor
	13	Test Track
	14	Modelling Saturday
<h2>2020</h2>		
January	3	Trustees Meeting
	11-12	Chiltern Model Railway Exhibition, Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre, Stevenage
	17	Test track
	18	Modelling Saturday
February	8	Modelling Saturday
	14	Test Track
	21	Risex Setup
	22	RISEX 2020 Exhibition, Community Centre, Princes Risborough
March	6	Trustees Meeting
	20	Wheeltapper 2020 Modelling Competition, with Guest Judge and Speaker Jerry Clifford who will be talking about the development of his Bath Queen Square layout.

Success at the Gauge 0 Guild modelling competition

After getting the Wheeltapper award at this year's club modelling competition in April, I thought that perhaps my model of a Southern Railway crocodile with propeller load must be a reasonable model. Just for fun I decided to enter it into the Gauge 0 Guild's competition at their main show at Telford in September. I've never done that before, and the standard is always high, but I wanted to support the Guild and increase the number of entries.

I was working on the Executor and Trustee Service stand all of Saturday and hadn't asked when the competition would be judged, so late in the afternoon when I heard clapping and noise coming from half way up the hall, I thought I'd just pop along to see how it was going. Part way there I met Roger Harmer heading towards me with "We need you – you've just won!".

Won what, I thought. Anyway I was guided to John Kneeshaw who was giving the awards out, and there I was having my picture taken, shaking hands with the award in my other hand. I still didn't know what I'd won!

It later transpired I was the winner of the freight category. There were about 10 entries, some being scratch built and some kits. The standard was pretty good overall. Some really excellent models I thought and others, mainly the kit built

ones, which were rather ordinary really. I think that to win a competition with a kit, you have to make it unique in some way, and not just make the parts fit!

Was I chuffed!
You bet. Very very surprised.
What am I going to do next year?

James

