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Great British Train Show 2022



Welcome to the Great British Train Show.

Chairman's Greeting:

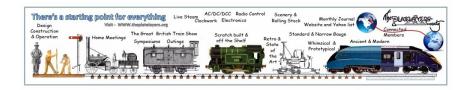
On behalf of the members of the Platelayers Society, welcome to The Great British Train Show of 2022. This show was originally planned for 2020 but, like so many other good things, we had to postpone it to 2021, and then again to this year. We hope that finally we will be able to host a safe and enjoyable experience.

A silver lining to the pandemic is that some of our exhibitors have been able to improve their exhibits or even create new layouts. As well, our vendors should have some new and exciting products to offer.

I would like to thank our major sponsor, Rapido Trains, our vendors and exhibitors, and the Society's members for their support and hard work to make the show finally happen.

Thank you for coming and supporting GBTS 2022, and I hope you enjoy the show.

Graham J. Parsons



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A Message from the G B T S Managers

The Platelayers Society is an Ontario based group of model train enthusiasts, most of whom are, you guessed it, British, and who well remember, as kids, the hours spent train spotting, watching the real trains, mostly steam, go by.

In the 1800's when Queen Victoria was building railways just about everywhere, the men who laid the tracks were called Platelayers, placing heavy stones in line for iron rails to be attached.

The GBTS is the principal activity of the Platelayers Society. The show takes place every two years and brings together railway modellers from near and far, UK models, UK trains. No box cars or cabooses here.

At the GBTS expect to see operating layouts small and large and vendors selling, that's right, British model trains, new and old. Here you can discuss the why's and wherefores with the modeller who put in many score hours to depict a scene, existing today or long gone, somewhere in UK.

The hobby has grown to include all manner of electronic controls, signalling, and scenery, a cross section of which is displayed.

Let me introduce also the other two Show Managers, Mike Walton who calls himself 'Exhibitors Focal' and looks after our many exhibitors, and Keith Martel, who recruits and organises the Vendors.

The show takes about 20 volunteer members to produce, too many to list except for Peter Hughes who produced this very fine Show Guide. Rapido, a Canadian based producer of model trains both UK and NA. They are our sponsor, have shared some of the costs, will supply a carriable custom made working layout as prize for a draw, tickets for which are available from the admissions desk.

But if any of this catches your fancy, come rekindle the hobby and join Platelayers, even if you are a closet North American enthusiast.

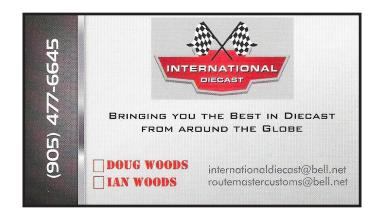
A huge welcome to one and all, enjoy the show.

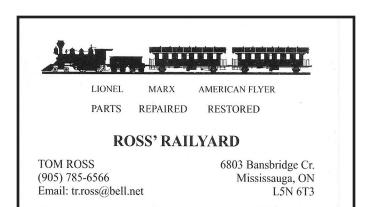
Show Manager

Mark Earley

Exhibition Field

- 1 Rapido
- 2 Hornby O Gauge Clockwork
- 3 Leadenham
- 4 Brunswick Dock
- 5 Trix Twin
- 6 Navigation Hill
- 7 Brewery Lane
- 8 St. Blazey Clay Line
- 9 Thomas Elsbridge Station
- 10 Roweham Withdrawn
- 11 Paper Shell Scenery
- 12 The Bells of Peover
- 14 Static 7¹/₄" Gauge model & Pop Rivet Shunting Layout
- 15 Whitford Green
- 16 Ardleigh Bitton
- 17 Indian Narrow Gauge
- 18 Hornby Dublo
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- 22 Southwold
- 23 Bus Diorama
- 24 Trevethick
- 25 Thomas Tidmouth Yard & Station







Vendors Circle

- 1 British Diecast Tony Potter
- 2 Tri-Ang Trains Anthony Griffiths
- **3** Peter Scrimshaw
- 4 Tri-Ang & Scalextric Mike Stern
- 5 KR Models Ltd Keith Revell
- 6 Cameron Ponting
- 7 FD Design & Print Feisal Damji
- 8 Andrea Matrosovs
- 9 Dave Venables
- 10 International Diecast Ian Woods
- 11 Platelayers Bring & Buy
- 12 BJB Enterprises John Rowe
- 14 Ross' Railyard Tom Ross
- 15 David Watson
- 16 Chris Saunders
- 17 British Model Trains Nigel Doran
- 18 Tom Smith
- 19 Fares Please Steven David
- PL1 Platelayers Society Information

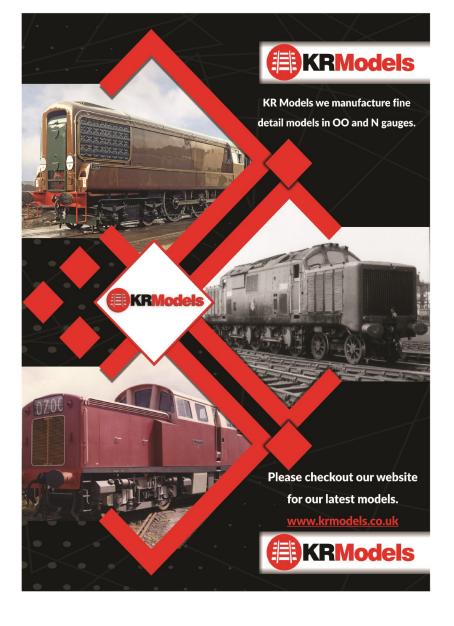


Exhibit 1 - Rapido

Welcome to the Great British Train Show!

Things have certainly changed here at Rapido Trains since we last got together. When we last penned words for this show guide, we wrote about the British-outline models that we'd produced for partners in the UK market and our plans to produce some British models under our own banner. Since then, Rapido now has its own British sister company – the imaginatively named 'Rapido Trains UK'.

The new business was launched in December 2020 with just six products. Well, here we are in spring 2022 and the UK team are managing over 40 product lines (some of which have yet to be announced!).

This year, we've already taken delivery of three new railway products: there's the re-run of the APT-E (did you see the funky spoof livery op-

tions?); the Gunpowder Vans (about time too considering we mentioned them in the 2018 show guide!) and the South Eastern & Chatham Railway open wagons. Oh, and for the bus fans (including Jason), we took delivery of two new models in 2021, the 1:76 scale WMPTE Fleetline and the second batch of BCT 'New Look' Guys.

What does our UK range include? Our flagship products include the 'OO' gauge The Titfield Thunderbolt range and the 'OO' gauge Highland Railway 'Jones Goods'. There's a trio of 'OO' gauge shunting locomotives in the form of the Hunslet 0-6-0ST, LBSCR 'E1' 0-6-0T and WR '15XX' 0-6-0PT not to mention 'OO' gauge GWR, SECR and BR air-brake era wagons, many of which are UK-designed. We've managed to secure a re-run of the exquisite LNER Dynamometer Car and let's not forget the 'N' gauge Class 28 and 'Conflat P' wagon as well. Oh, and more buses too!

The UK team (that's myself, Andy, Dan, Steve & Linny) have our work cut out managing such a big range of products as we learn how to run a model manufacturing business. Still, we have the experience of the North American business to call on... or at least to look at and decided what things we do better this time! But that's why we couldn't be prised from our desks in order to cross the 'pond' to attend the show in person. We hope to be able to join you in the future. That said, we do owe a debt to all in the North American business who have helped and supported us on this amazing journey so far.

In the meantime, enjoy the show!

Richard Foster Sales & Marketing Manager Rapido Trains UK

Exhibit 25 - Wooden Thomas

Tidmouth Yard & Station Based on the Railway Series

Presented by: Ted Stuart

The world of Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends has now been on our books and screens for more then 75 years. During the origins of the series, the author Wilbert Awdry created a detailed descriptions of the history, geography, and operations of Thomas's fictional North Western Railway on the fictional Island of Sodor (Between Barrow and Mann).

This display is of Sodor's terminal station of Tidmouth, the historic fishing town on Sodor's west coast facing the island of Mann, and the start of the Alsbaugh branch line.

The display is modeled with the children's toy line of Thomas Wooden Railway with custom made engines and rolling stock, that are closer to how they were depicted in the books.

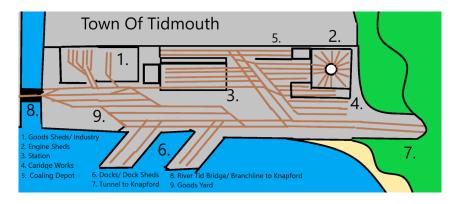




Exhibit 23 - Bus Diorama

Presented by: Steven Duhig

Steven has always had an interest in East Anglian transport, and the Great Eastern section of British Railways in particular. I know of others who suffer from this same affliction, but I can assure you all it is all quite harmless!

As you will see he is also partial to London Transport, the authority that used to be responsible for running the tube and all those red (and green) buses throughout, oh yes, you've guessed it, London !!

In the 1960s London's bus and tube network was still integrated and standardised with a unique corporate identity. LT had also developed styles of architectural design, and this is reflected in the Kingsway Model kit range; examples of which form the basis for Steven's LT central area bus garage dioramas of Hornchurch and Kingston-upon-Thames.

The Eastern National Bulford Diorama depicts a more rural Essex, but the location is fictional. The depot is based upon a pair of ancient

Airfix/Dapol kits.



Exhibit 24 - Trevethick Plateway

Presented by: David Woodhead

This 1:24 scale section of plateway track includes a turnout on a scenic base, including a model of Trevithick's locomotive of 1804 and rolling stock. Wheels on this early railway are flangeless, the flanged plates guiding the stock.

The track is scratchbuilt from textured wood blocks representing the sleeper stones and weathered brass angle for the plate rails, the locomotive is a modified Airfix kit and the cars are scratch built using photos of preserved examples.

Exhibit 2 - Hornby Clockwork O Gauge

Presented by Andrew Bosson

It all started when I was a small boy, as a privilege and as a wet weekend was forecast, I was allowed to play with my dad's small collection of his childhood train set! This was stored in the loft of our child hood home. Fast forward about 20 years, he'd emigrated to Canada and upon my dad's passing I inherited his small collection. I made the (mistake) of buying a manual on Hornby 0 gauge, then I found out all the other items they manufactured. I was hooked!!!! Now the collection has vastly increased as you will all see at the show!



Exhibit 3 - Leadenham

Presented by Dundas Model Railway Club N Scale Layout

An exhibit based on the village of Leadenham on the Great Northern Line in Lincolnshire, England.

The branch line was opened in 1867, Leadenham Station was built in 1876, the line was closed in 1965 and the station is now a private home.





Exhibit 4 - Brunswick Dock

Presented by Graham Parsons

4 mm Scale (1:76.2), EM (18.2 mm) Gauge

Brunswick Dock is a fictitious example of the branch lines of the Great Eastern Railway that served the dock area of the East End of London up until the 1950s, though the layout is set in the summer of 1914, immediately before World War I. Though there was no Brunswick Dock in the Port of London, Brunswick Wharf and Pier did exist on the River Thames next door to Blackwall Station and the West India Docks.

The line serves four main industries:

- A Coal Wharf on one of the waterways running into the Thames, which supplies coal and other necessities to ships moored in the docks or on the river. This was a legal way of providing fuel to ships in the port while avoiding the payment of dock fees. The GER operated its own Coal Wharf at Devonshire Street on the Regent's Canal.

- A factory manufacturing rubber and gutta-percha goods, notably electric cables, in demand for electrifying factories and homes, and for communications.

- A Brewery, which receives malt, hops, yeast and coal, and ships spent grains for cattle feed, and some beer, though most of the output is delivered locally by road.

- The Dock itself is represented by an exchange siding with the Port of London Authority Railway, for imports and exports of almost any kind of commodity.

There is also a small passenger station for local trains from Stratford and Fenchurch Street, used mainly by dock workers, though these services are under threat from the cheaper and more frequent trams operated by the London County Council Tramways.

Locomotives, rolling stock and structures are partly scratch-built and partly from kits, control is by conventional DC.





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Exhibit 22 - Southwold

Presented by: Craig Parry in 1/32 Scale The Southwold, 1879-1929, was a delightful example of one of East Anglia's Minor Railways.

Constructed to 3' gauge, unusual in England, it consisted of a single track, just over 8 miles long, from Halesworth (connections to London) across the heathland and marshes of East Suffolk to the seaside resort and harbour of Southwold.

The Southwold Railway Trust is currently engaged in reconstructing a working railway on part or all of the original track bed.

The layout, approximately 18' long and varying between 30" and 46" in width, began as a collaboration between two highly skilled and talented craftsman - Ray Lantz in Denver, Colorado, and Paul Berntsen in New Zealand.

Ray is responsible for creating the original structures and patterns for the rolling stock and Paul has scratch built the locomotives and the castings from the patterns.

Ray is also responsible for the very fine figures, from sculpting to painting, some of whom are modelled directly from period photographs of actual persons employed by the railroad.

The layout features the latest 'Power on Board' radio controlled locomotive technology as well as digital turnout controls.

The locomotive livery represents two periods of pre and post G.E.R. ownership and control with identical locomotives in the 'as delivered' green and their later blue colour.

Construction of scenery is ongoing with planned extensions and the completion of nearly 60 pieces of scratch-built waggons and coaches.



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Exhibit 21 - Wednesday Night Water Boilers

& Golden Horseshoe Live Steamers

G (H) L) (S) Golden Horseihoe Live Steamers

Small-Scale Live Steam Locomotives and Trains 32mm and 45mm Gauge Presented by: various WNWB/GHLS Members on Chuck Lawrence's portable track.

The Wednesday Night Water Boilers (WNWB) are an informal group of small-scale railway enthusiasts.

From early spring to late fall, they have weekly steam-ups with their trains on the various members' layouts which are generally within a 30 km radius of Oakville.

Throughout the year they are also to be found at the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, running on the GHLS indoor track.

Members run a wide variety of miniature live-steam trains fueled by butane, alcohol, or coal. They also operate clockwork and batteryelectric locomotives. Locomotives can be controlled manually or by remote control.

The portable and GHLS tracks are dual gauge, 32 mm and 45 mm.

At the GBTS the group will be showcasing British narrow gauge and standard gauge equipment, some scratch built.

Here is an opportunity to see a wide variety of unusual and historic railway equipment operating realistically, but in miniature.



Exhibit 5 - Trix Twin Railway

The Fifties/Sixties Special

Presented by Keith Jones

The layout is 7'x4' and is a good representation of the Trix Twin 12 volt DC equipment from the late 50s and early 60s.

It includes some of the "Action features" offered by Trix in the early to mid1950s. e.g. the operational coal conveyor, remote control dump wagons and single aspect colour light signals.

It demonstrates Trix Twin running with the additional capability of independent control of a third train run off the overhead catenary.

All the track is the final generation sold by Trix with nickel-silver rails vs. the previous rolled tin-plate versions on a Bakelite or fibre base.

Exhibit 6 - Navigation Hill

Presented by Mike Hall/James Blackadar

EM Gauge 18.2mm

Loosely set amongst the extensive railway network that centred around Leeds, Navigation Hill depicts a handful of sidings on the edge of the city's urban development. Here, goods trains, carrying a wide variety of manufactured items and raw materials such as coal and coke, were received, marshalled and sent onward to their final destination. A cattle dock, situated at the far end of the yard, supplied livestock to the local businesses. A modest engine road provides access to water as well as an ash pit for the L.M.S engine working here as well as visiting L.N.E.R locomotives.

Since the last exhibit in 2018, the layout's scenery has progressed but further work remains. The brickwork for the civil-engineering works is made from CAD drawn, laser-engraved cardboard. The track has been built to EM gauge of 18.2mm. The layout is wired for Digital Command Control but can also be connected to a conventional DC controller.

The layout has been built by James Blackadar. The locomotives and wagons have been built either by Mike Hall or James.

This appearance of the layout is dedicated in memory of Ron Smith. He was a great friend, modeller and inspiration.

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Exhibit 7 - Brewery Lane

Presented by Peter Cunningham/Martin Lovell.

0 gauge (7mm scale)

The various Breweries of Burton on Trent had between them the largest private industrial railway system in the UK covering some 60 miles of internal railways and sidings. Brewery Lane is a fascinating glimpse into that unique, bustling world of rail served Maltings, Hop stores, Ale stores, Cooperage yards, and Brew Houses, that would make up a small but prosperous brewery of that time.

Primarily a shunting layout with traffic arriving from the interchange sidings, typically Barley, to be malted, Hops, coal for the boilers, and numerous empty casks for washing and repair etc.

Internal movements around the Brewery as and when needed and departure traffic of full casks of beer and open wagons of spent grain to the Marmite factory.

The layout is $16' \times 2'$ and is designed to be operated from the front to allow the operators to better interact with the public.

As Martin recently passed away the layout is now run in his memory and his sons are helping to make that happen.



Exhibit 19 - Gauge 1 Modelling & BOGG

Presented by: Rod Clarke, Steven Stanisewski (Gauge 1) Christopher English (BOGG) Various examples of Gauge 1 models.

The British O Gauge Group (BOGG) is a sub-set of the Platelayers Association. It is an informal group which came together about twenty years ago.

Currently there are ten members whose interests cover British LMS, LNER, GWR, SR and BR prototypes.

Originally the group built a large O Gauge exhibition layout measuring 34ft by 19ft which was exhibited at the annual CRHA show and at the bi-annual Great British Train Shows. The layout is no longer exhibited to the general public but large sections are erected in member's private homes.

The members meet at each other's houses to run trains at approximately 4-to-6-week intervals, particularly during the winter months.

Exhibit 20 - Meccano

Presented by: Colin Hoare & friends. The Canadian Modeling Association for Meccano & Allied Systems (CMAMAS) is a group of people who are enthusiasts of metal modeling systems. We produce a quarterly newsletter, Canadian MeccaNotes, written and produced by Meccano enthusiasts for Meccano enthusiasts. In addition, we exhibit models at numerous events.



Exhibit 18 - Hornby Dublo Group

Presented by: Chris Prentice & friends

Hornby Dublo was manufactured by Meccano Limited of Liverpool, England from 1938 to 1964 before being merged with Tri-ang, another British model railway manufacturer. The scale is OO (4mm/foot), slightly larger than HO but with the same track gauge. It was available originally in 3-rail using tinplate track with the centre rail as the power rail. In 1958, a 2-rail system was introduced. From its introduction in 1938 to the second world war, the system was also available in clockwork. Hornby Dublo was regarded as the premier model railway system in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth by virtue of its realistic design for the time and excellent engineering which allows these Meccano products to continue to run reliably many years after manufacturing ceased.

The Group's 3-rail layout has been a star attraction at every one of the GBTS shows since 1985. This year, we are featuring a new modular layout. Measuring 7.5 m (22ft) x 1 m (3 ft) in a "dog bone", continuous loop shape, it features a single-track main line with a large terminal station, passing loops, a shunting yard, a through-road station, sidings and engine shed with turntable inside the loops at either end.

Although remaining true to Hornby Dublo practice for the 1950s representing British Railways (formed in 1948), the layout features modern electrics with a capacitor discharge unit for more precise operation of points (switches) and signals. In addition to early and later British Railways liveries, locomotives and rolling stock include each of the pre-nationalization companies – London Midland Scottish Railway (LMS), London Northeastern Railway (LNER), Great Western Railway (GWR) and Southern Railway (SR).

Particular thanks are due to members David Craig and Andrew Bacon for acting as coordinator and track layout designer, Steve Cullen for designing and completing the electrics and keeping us organized, David Craig for the scenery and backdrops and other effects, and Paul Dobson, Art Parker, Chris Prentice and Gavin Fear for contributing rolling stock, and to Steve Cullen for their operating talents and knowledge of things "UK".

Exhibit 8 - St Blazey - Par Branchline, Cornwall

Presented by Gerald Harper

The granite range called Dartmoor runs along the length of Cornwall in SW England and is rich in clay deposits which have been extracted for several hundred years to be manufactured into high quality porcelain wares. The topography is such that each mine or group of mines would ship their product down the nearest river valley to either the north or south coast from where ships took it to manufacturing centres. These transport corridors started as horse and cart trails and were subsequently upgraded to rail lines. Those running to the south coast all had to cross the GWR main line when it was built to Penzance.

This model represents the branchline connecting the town and mines at St. Blazey with the port at Par via the Par Junction crossing of the GWR. The total length of line was only some 3 miles. Panier tank engines hauled the open wagons back and forth either to the junction for onward rail transport or to the port for loading into coastal ships. The fine white clay powder was either packed in sealed barrels if going by ship or in wagons covered with tied down tarpaulins if going by rail.

There were several mines in the highest hilly areas each connected by a narrow-gauge incline tramway to the processing plant where the clay was washed, cleaned and dried for packing and shipment.

The model represents the narrow-gauge lines, the loading plant and standard gauge branchline to Par Harbour. At some later stage I may add a fifth module representing Par Junction.

The standard gauge (O scale) and narrow gauge (HOn3 scale) are operated by a Lenz DCC system controlling mostly sound equipped locomotives. Time period modeled is the 1920s.



Exhibit 9 - Thomas - Elsbridge Station

Presented by: Robert Magee, Adam Buller, Adrian Cocking & Eric Pierre Drouin.

Elsbridge Station is based on the station of the same name from the 1st. series of the children's television show "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends". Debuting almost 40 years ago, Thomas and his friends have dazzled generations of children and adults alike with its charming and nostalgic 1930s British inspired railway on the Island of Sodor.

The layout uses the same scale as the original model show, Gauge 1, and utilizes many of the same company products. Märklin produced the track and chassis for some of the engines and while many of the rolling stock kits are replicas, some were originally manufactured by the same model supplier, Tenmille.

Elsbridge's buildings were built by Jacob Jarrett, who also built Thomas, Gordon, Toby and some of the rolling stock. Louis Cantone and Adrian Cocking built the rest of the rolling stock.

The other side of the layout leads to a signal box and bridge that was assembled by Adrian Cocking with buildings from our Australian friend, Covey. The signal box and bridge were featured in the show's intro with the titular tank engine's iconic (or infamous) theme song.

Elsbridge Station as it appeared in the 1st series in 1984.



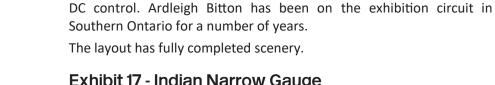


Exhibit 17 - Indian Narrow Gauge

Exhibit 16 - Ardleigh Bitton

copy of the original station.

Presented by: Lloyd Pierce

India's "Toy Trains" modelled in "O" Narrow Gauge

India's toy trains: Darjeeling, Shimla & Neral Matheran to name a few. Small-sized engines running on slim tracks, India's first mountain railway was playfully referred to as a 'toy train' by Darjeeling residents. The name stuck, and India's network of narrow-gauge trains are all now affectionately known by the moniker.

The layout features 2 oval tracks, one above the other to give the appearance of a hill railway.

Locomotives on the layout include DHR 0-4-0 saddle tank, Shimla Rail Car, 0-6-0T and some Diesel locomotives.

LIGNED VISION Andrew Foord Partner AUDIO • VISUAL • ENTERTAINMENT **TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS** 161 Alden Road, Unit 6 Cell: (647) 527 - 9590 Markham, Ontario Office: (365) 509 - 2500 L3R 3W7 andrew.f@alignedvisiongroup.com www.alignedvisiongroup.com 21

All the locomotives and rolling stock are predominantly scratch built, the DHR loco and the Neral Matheran diesel are built from kits.

Presented by: William Bickley

4mm Scale, 00 Gauge Layout The layout is based on BR Midland 1950s to 1980s, especially the

former Midland Railway station at Bitton, although it is not an exact

The layout is approximately 10' wide and 18' long, using conventional

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Presented by: Mike Watts S Scale (1:64)

Whitford Green is my third S scale layout to be shown on exhibition, since my Wandle Valley Railway which featured at GBTS for several shows.

It is set in the north Surrey area of England just before WW1, an area served primarily by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. As was typical in so many parts of the UK, adjacent railway companies had running rights on certain competitors' lines and in this case the London & South Western Railway ran a few trains in to the town, which is based on my 'home' town of Mitcham.

The layout comprises the terminus station, with full scenery, and a fiddle yard, to enable trains to run out from the terminus, ready for the next departure.

The station buildings are based on Mitcham LBSCR station and are accompanied by a new feature, a village green with rows of Edwardian shops. There is a basic loco yard for both LBSCR and LSWR locos. Being a suburban area, the goods yard is only a small affair. Goods traffic was not a major feature of most London suburban stations.

Control is by conventional DC, by one person and from behind the layout normally.



Exhibit 10 - Roweham

7mm Scale

Presented by Brian Dickey

This model railway is an effort to represent a small Great Western Railway Branchline terminal circa 1947 - the last year or the GWR as a separate entity. The layout track design and operation loonot reflect a particular location, although the Station, Goods Statuand Water Tower are models of actual buildings on GWR's for a bobotsbury branch (which was a bit west of Weymouth).

The display is now mostly completed, but continues to evolve as more details are added. Present are most pitche usual structures associated with a small rural outpost of the tail bay, such as Station, Goods Shed, Coal Merchant, Yard Crane viscel, ower and Cattle Dock. There's also a private repair shop whith voald look after local vehicles and farm equipment.

The models are used to be scale of 7mm: foot (1/43.5 actual size). The locomotives, with represent types normally used on GWR branch lines, are equiped with DCC and sound. The layout is 16 ft. long (in 4 ft. sections) and 19 in. wide. Track is Peco code 124 and turnouts are controlled by a manual linkage under the layout.





Down memory lane 2010













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Exhibit 12 - The Bells of Peover

Presented By: Alan Lomax

Technology demonstration with the use of several sensor types, Arduinos and special effects on a small piece of demonstration track.

Alan has been given some equipment from StaRFIshrail to add to the demonstration.

StaRFIshrail is a complete system for adding multiple RFID points for sensing model railways and cars. Rather than using adapted components, it has been designed from the ground up, in order to get over the shortcomings of using standard items such as the RC522 or IDLA12/20.

Exhibit 14 - Pop Rivet Shunting Layout & Static 7¼" Gauge model

Presented By: Steve Moore

These 3½" Gauge trains are mostly made with sheet metal and put together using pop rivets. Better known as pop rivet trains they are a good example of simple construction trains running on curtain rails using no electricity.

A 7¼ gauge railway is a miniature railway that is mainly used in clubs and as a garden railway. Locomotives include steam, electric and diesel types. Most are built to an individual design but some are built from kits.



Platelayers Society

Exhibit 11 - Paper Shell Scenery

Presented by Ian Clarke

Creating model railroad scenery doesn't have to be a challenge, nor does it have to be costly, messy or seemingly irreversible. Over the years, I've taken many approaches to scenery on my various 3-rail, Ogauge layouts, from flat tabletop with green felt expanses, to plastershell mountains reaching to the ceiling. Then I discovered paper-shell scenery, for which I am indebted to Howard Zane's excellent article in the January 2007 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman.

The timing coincided nicely with the development of what was to be the final Allentown-Clarkesburg Railroad in my basement in central New Jersey. I had just finished the entire basement, including a fully carpeted 38'x24' train room. While I had used plaster cloth to make scenery on the layout that preceded this new one, I was loath to deal with the attendant dust and mess in my brand-new room. Plus, even though I bought the cloth in bulk from the manufacturer, it still wasn't cheap, and the new layout would be bigger than the last.

So, Zane's technique, which is quick, cheap, creates little mess, and is readily modifiable at will, was my saviour. What I really like is that if you aren't happy with the result, you can just cut it out with a utility knife and redo it until you are satisfied. The mess is minimal, and the cost, negligible.

Obviously no scenery technique is perfect or suits every situation, but this approach offers considerable flexibility. There's little risk in experimenting with it; you'll probably come up with something that works for you in short order.



Down memory lane...... 2014...













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