

MODELLING MATTERS

by Roger Tuke

Another Modelling Matters and I start with an update from member Adrian Garner, who informs me that his 7mm scale working model of The City & South London Railway locomotive No.7 is now complete. He has painted it in brown as delivered in 1889/90, to contrast with the more ornate livery subsequently adopted, which he intends in turn to apply to a model of one of the later locomotives. The model is shown on a temporary test track.

He has also completed the artwork for the etchings of the carriages. In line with the prototype, the train will consist of a rake of three carriages and these are partly assembled. The small diameter of the wheels meant these had to be turned from nickel silver. They are insulated from their steel axles with oversize Paxolin bushes which ensure the wheels are square to the axles. The bushes will not be visible when the bogies are in situ. The model is shown at an early stage of construction with much detail still yet to be added.



Adrian is also hoping to make a short cameo version of King William Street Station as a static display for the models. I understand he will be working on this display on the demonstration stand at the forthcoming London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace over the weekend of 15 & 16 March, where he would be delighted to meet fellow modellers.

Next up, I've finally had the chance over the Christmas break to view in person a modelling mate's Bachmann/LTM exclusive release in 4mm scale of the LT Florence Nightingale No.17 inspection saloon. Sadly, what has appeared in numerous social media comments and reviews is true.

In real life, No.17 has a seamed ribbed roof but doesn't have any vents at all. So all of the vents on the model would need to be cut off, filed down, probably filled and meaning a roof repaint will then be necessary. Furthermore, the front end needs all the pipework and windscreen wipers fitted removed, meaning there will be small holes to fill and touch up, taking great care to maintain the lining adjacent intact. Lastly, the orange multiple control sockets then need to be made/bought and added to correctly portray the real No.17.

All of the above is probably well within the capabilities of any competent modeller who was brought up on coach kit assembly and/or used to kit bashing, but given the LTM are retailing the model at £100, then surely one should expect a better representation of the prototype? Again, sadly, this seems to reflect most major model manufacturers' common approach, to so often re-livery a similar existing base model without any engagement with anyone or organisation who could inform them as regards to the details of the prototype. Or even, for that matter, consultation with the numerous photos on Flickr or the like, which would show up the model's errors at an early stage. Thankfully, the newer generation of model manufacturers seem only too keen to consult and use the knowledge of others to get their models better resembling the prototype within the limits of manufacturing processes.

Another new name to the production of 4mm OO Scale RTR offerings is 4RailDCC, www.4raildcc.co.uk A new company registered in December 2024 and from their website seems to specialise in DCC sound chips for scale Underground models – chips for A60, C69/77, 1972, 1973, 1959, 1962 and 1938

Stocks have been released. Now they have a four-car A Stock (unrefurbished) model 3D printed (*Right*), but finished other than logos and transfers or a DCC chip. It does, however, claim to have full interior seating bases and backs, comes fully painted, glazed and is fitted with two 31mm Tenshodo spud motors in one of the two DM cars with pickups connected. Price on their website is £670. From a little



detective work, 4RailDCC appears to be owned by Daniel Grant Floyd, I suspect the Dan Floyd, a then keen young Underground modeller who I met whilst John Polley and I were first exhibiting Abbey Road around 20 years ago now. He went onto work for LUL and built and ran the ride on C Stock train on the 7.25 inch gauge outdoor railway at LTM Acton Depot. A website to watch I suspect.

Below: *It may be remembered that only the first three eight-car trains (six four-car units – 5000/01 to 5010/11) had black roofs, which lost them to grey on their first heavy overhauls.*

All A Stock photos: 4RailDCC



Meanwhile, progress on my own 4mm four car Class 378 Overground unit is being made and it is now in the paint shop, with both windscreen wipers and pantograph on order. Once fully painted and glazed, I'll need to acquire, or probably get made the necessary transfers, as I'm yet to find any manufacturer who is willing to make the Overground roundel for me.



Finally, now for something very different. Following our Underground layout Carlton Vale's inaugural exhibition appearance in May 2024, we put some images up on YouTube shortly after. Very soon we were contacted by a music video producer, to see if we would be willing to put the layout up for a day's filming, the result to accompany the major grime music artist JME's latest proposed release. This we did over what was a very long Saturday in late June and at the end of November the video was duly released. Within 48 hours on YouTube it had amassed some 83,400 views. Before you ask, no grime music is not normally heard around my workbench daily, soul or jazz normally wafts around here with paint, glue and solder fumes, but I'm reliably informed by my granddaughters that one, "JME is massive," the resulting video "is well sick" and to cap it all, I'm now "very kool" too!

The link can be found at –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpYHc9jSjvc>

One can always lower or mute the volume to watch. Enjoy!