



# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

August 2020

In this issue.

From the editor

August meeting

Show-n-tell

Items for sale

The last say

## We remain under ~COVID-19~ restrictions.

from your editor:

The COVID-19 situation continues with daily upgrades to travel advices as restrictions as to border closures, this is NOT the time to be complacent.

Keep on training.

**Robin.**

Having no meeting in August the 'at home' activities for:

## **Show-n-tell.**

**Warren BACKHOUSE:**

Loco #1 which is now DCC chipped & running well.



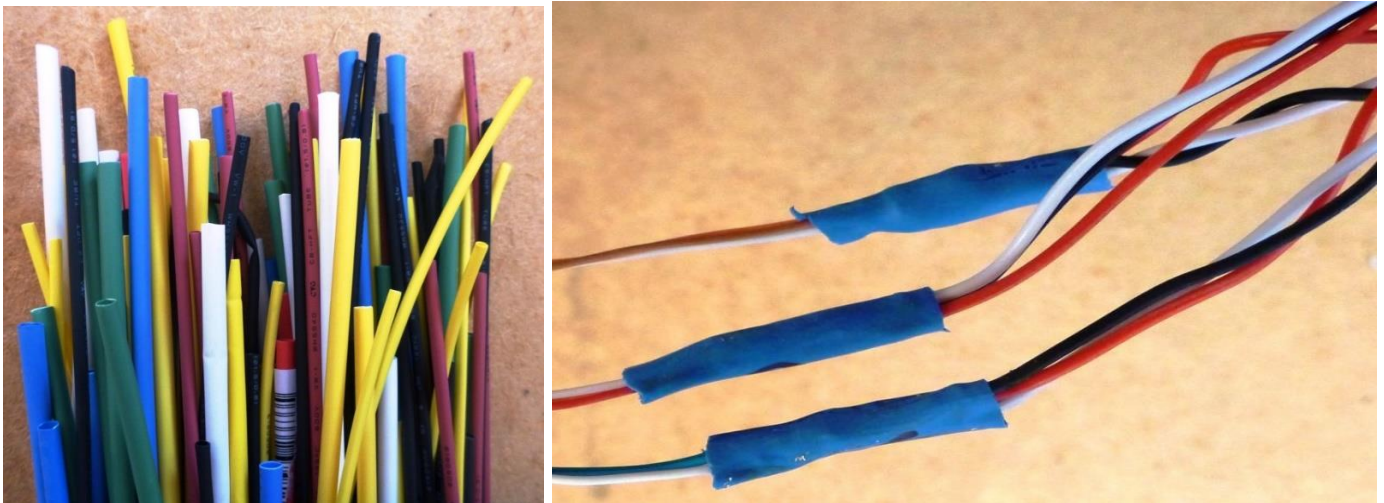
**Ian BARNES:**

Heat shrink tubing – it is great stuff!

It has so many uses in model railway construction, particularly in wiring up your electronics. The resulting protective sheath of the tubing protects bare wire from electrically shorting with a possible neighbor and it adds rigidity to a wire joint, especially if it is a soldered joint.

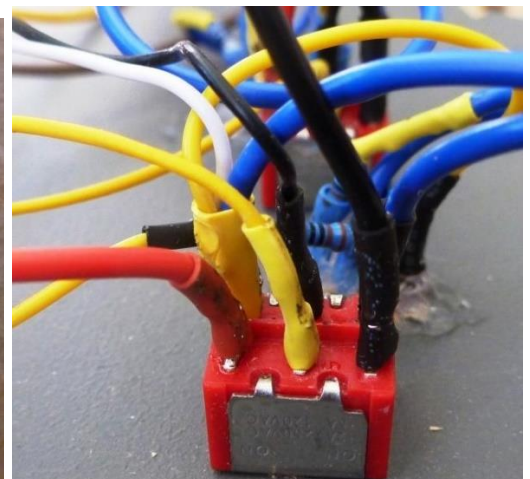
Heat shrink tubing in various colours & diameters (these shrink to approximately half size when heat is applied with the aid of a soldering iron, not the tip, hair dryer or heat gun.

Joining of two wires



Wiring to an Amphenol computer connector

Wires to switch pins



Wiring to small IC pin/socket connectors, ideal for steam loco to tender connections

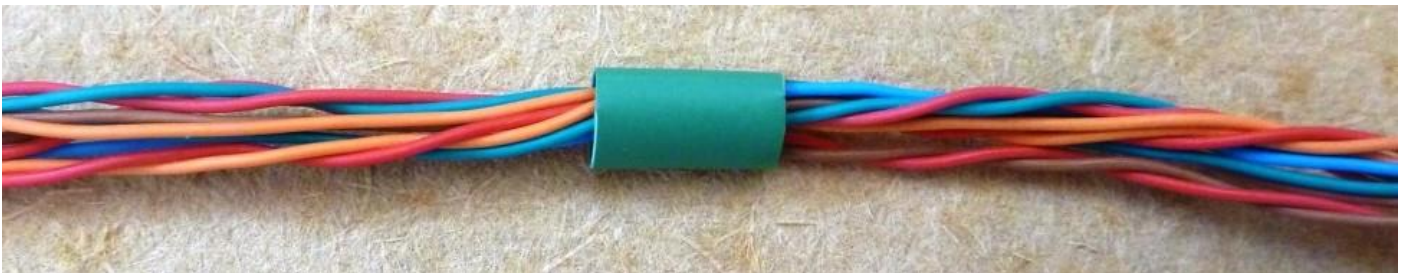




LED feeder wires, resistor is to the common power [A- anode] other is [K - cathode]



A wire cable tidy – no need to have to heat shrink it.



### **Rob NESBITT:**

Another completed project that had been started far too many years ago the Branchline "Pullman Sleeper", built more or less straight out of the box. These "kits" are injection moulded plastic despite being pre-painted are surprisingly not quick to build. This one took close to 10hrs. Some parts have been left off so the coach can get around 28" / 720 mm radius curves. The roof is a click press fit, so passengers may be fitted later (when Rob finds them).



Another project being a just completed a repair, of the keeps on buying items that cannot be used on his Wagga layout, sighting a PCM (a Broadway Limited company) German BR01 pacific with sound and DCC on eBay a few months back. Seller said it was as new, where to my surprise the only bid of \$150 plus post was successful.



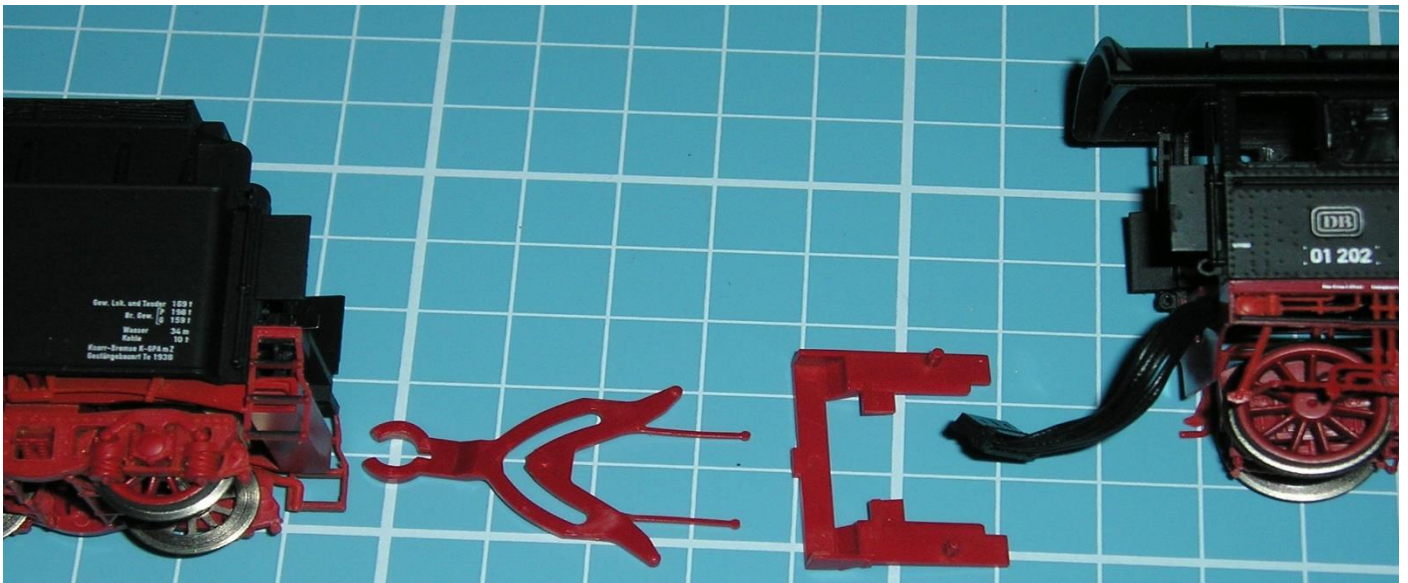
Picture Item from the eBay listing.



As received



The damaged part below right



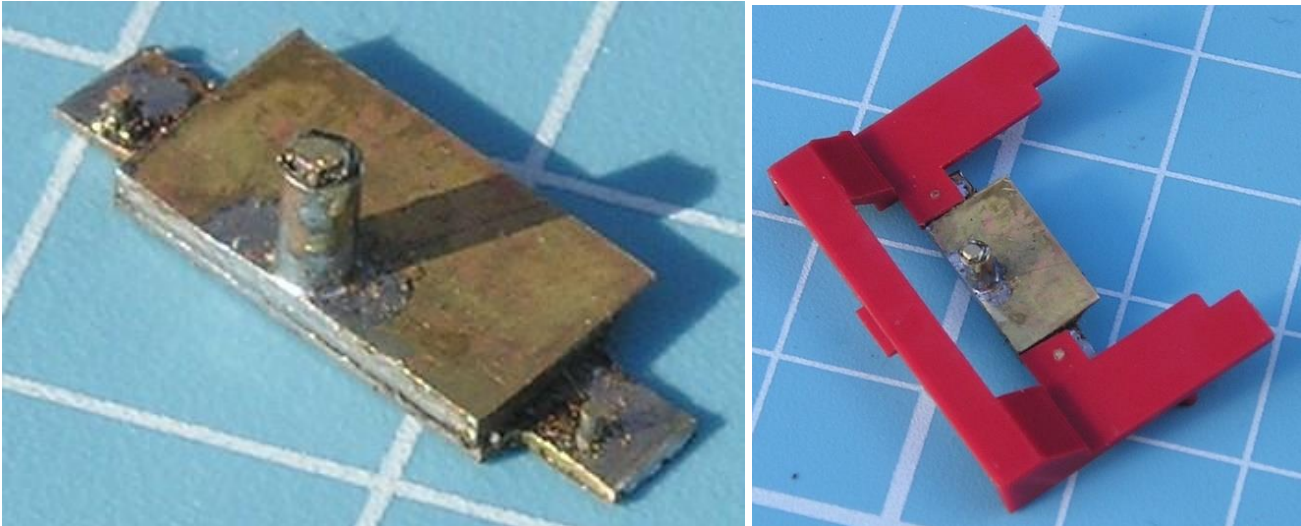
On arrival found that the loco was not new, in fact it was damaged the DCC and sound worked OK, but the following issues were noted.

- The front brake tender brake hanger had been snapped off,
- the cab floor was partially shattered, and
- more annoyingly the drawbar coupling from the loco to the tender was broken.

Suspicions were that the loco had suffered a major shunt in its past

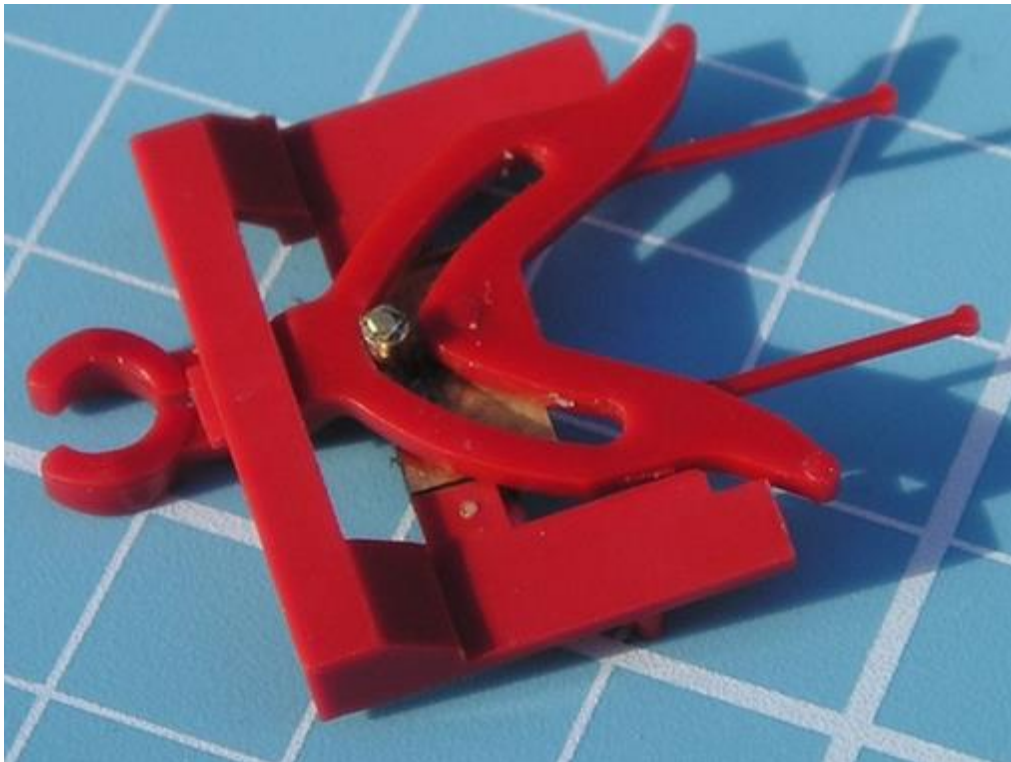
Wrote back to the seller where a \$50 compensation was received & then he set about trying to obtain a replacement part. The model dates from 2007 where unfortunately BLI did not have any spares, so the only way forward was to try and fabricate a replacement part to suit from brass.

The broken part was extracted from the loco and the missing section of the part was fabricated from brass strip, with pins to hold it firm into the plastic stubs of the original part. 2-part epoxy completed the repair.



The drawbar coupling was then refitted and the loco reassembled.

The close coupling feature works too - a bonus.





## WAGGA WAGGA STATION.

I had to try and see how hard it would be to use evergreen strip shapes to build up the wall. In progress pictures. I will have to trim back some of the sill above the window on the LHS, as it extends around 1mm too far - once I fit the stone block edging, the gap will not look right.



The model images have been chucked into photoshop to get some more contrast. The evergreen plastic is not the pleasing pale cream colour you see in the photoshopped pictures

P1011192.jpg

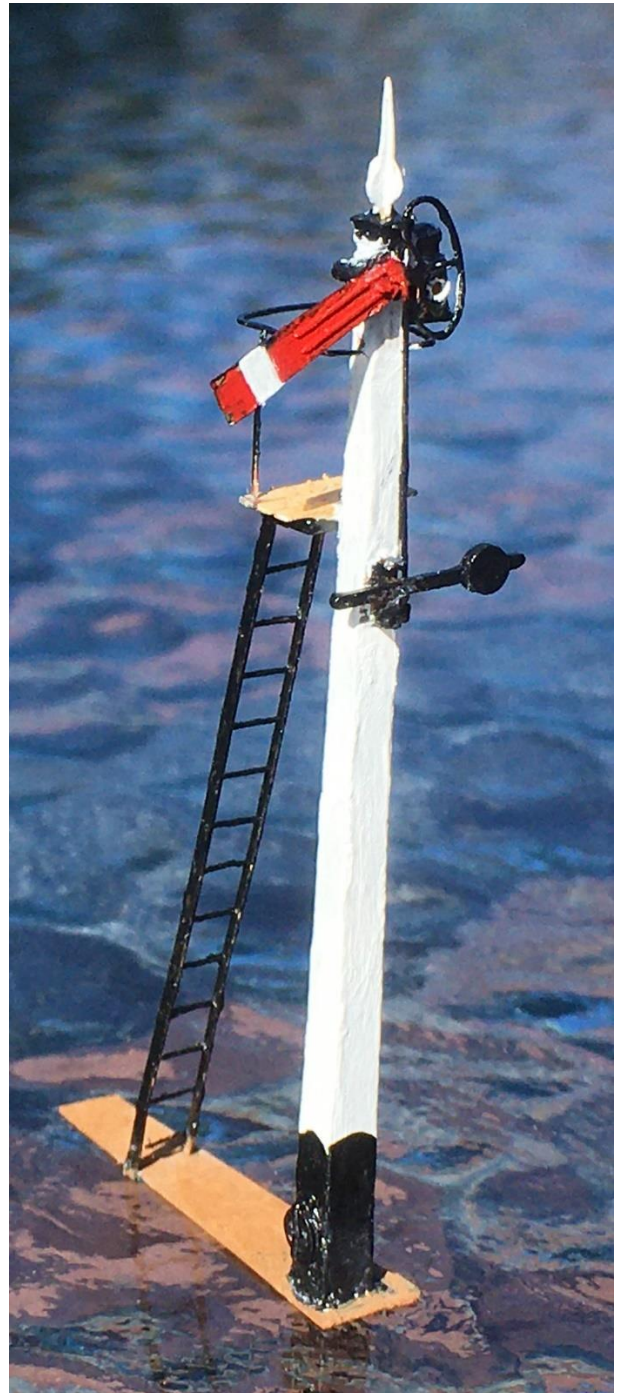


Yes, I think it would be something that could be achieved with 3D printing. I have probably spent 4 hrs getting to this point and I can see another 4 hrs to complete - Can you count 56 pieces of plastic in P1011192.jpg ? Yep, that is the count.

## George SAISANAS:

### NSW Signals in HO

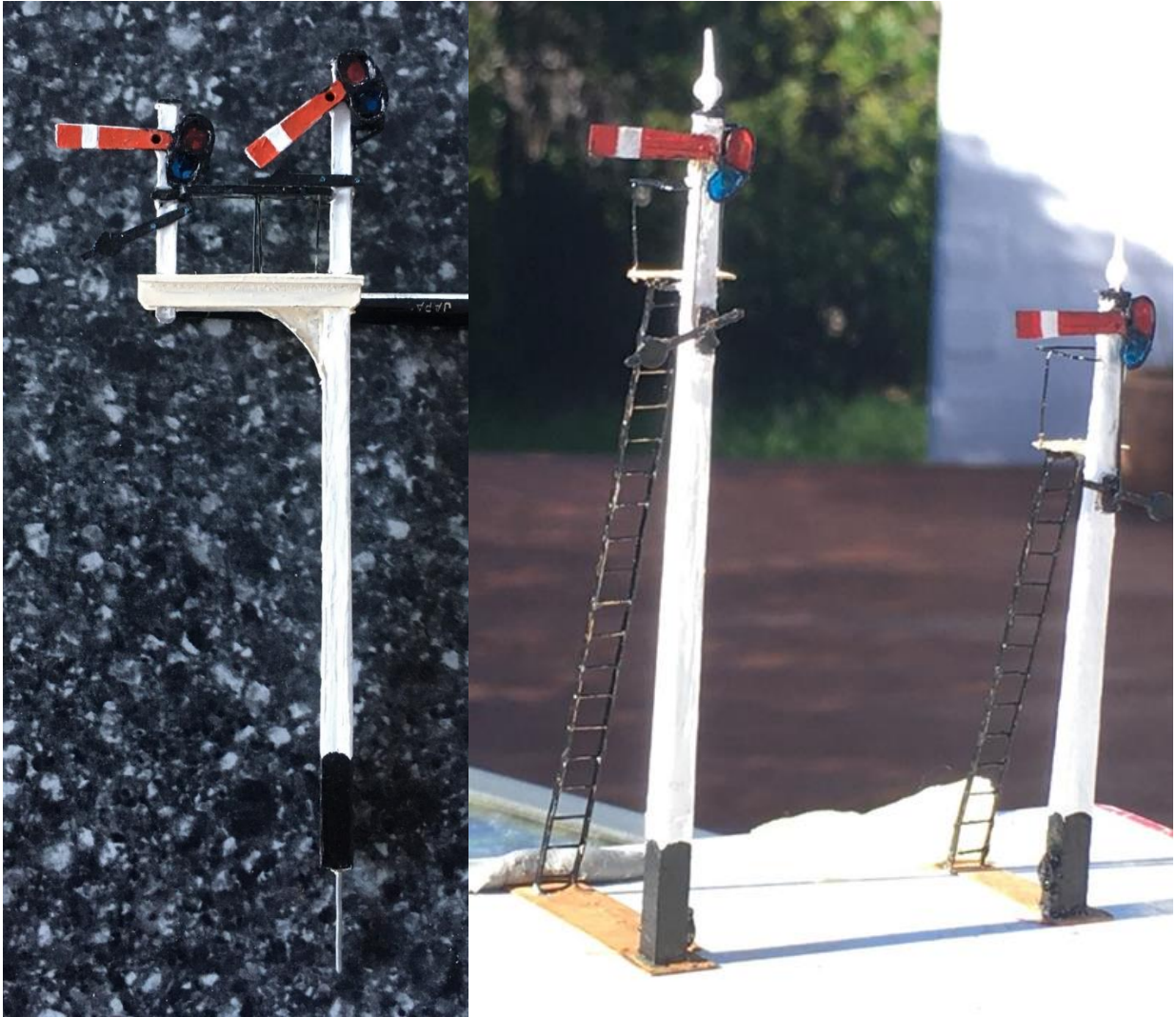
Here is a sample of some of the modelling I've been doing recently. Thought I'd have a go at putting together some NSW lower quadrant signal kits. The bracket signal is a Kerroby Models white metal kit, put together with super glue that I completed last year. It's not as precise as it could be, having a few parts missing, where I think a reasonable representation none the less. These white metal kits are non-operational and typically cost less than \$20.



While the brass etch kits are from Stephen Johnson Models. These were soldered together and are operational. The tall one is a Home Signal for the main line, while the shorter one is a Loop Starter and has had the balance lever reversed to clear the loading gauge comfortably, although I have seen all sorts of configurations used at 1:1 scale. The brass etch kits were a little fiddly to put together, with the ladders causing me the most difficulties, but after a coat of paint and the addition of food dyed Micro Kristal Klear as a film to form the lenses, I think look quite close to the real thing and are good value at under \$30. These also have the advantage of being able to be manually or servo actuated should you be inclined.



Requiring some paint touch ups (photos in good light bring up everything) and some ladder support straps are all that remain to complete them prior to installation.



**David VIRGO:**

Having recently obtained accurate drawings of the 60' Sellers Turntable castings from Ross, I have started work on some improved 3D models and prints.

The pictures show at the back, the older model, and at the front the newer model based on the drawings and photographs. There is some distortion with the final print being about 2mm over length





## Matt SEMENAS:

Well I have succeeded in converting The John Bull to DCC with headlight and sound. Ian was a great help by installing additional pickups in the locomotive that is simply being pushed by the motor in the tender. Several folks asked me to let them know how the XL Systems sound decoders will work so now you can hear it for yourself on the video link below:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R4\\_6TTIGSyw3Z1sJ3Ok5-l5SqZhv\\_bmv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R4_6TTIGSyw3Z1sJ3Ok5-l5SqZhv_bmv/view?usp=sharing)

I installed the steam locomotive sound decoder in the first carriage with the new iPhone apple 4 speakers that I bought for \$1.50 each, apparently Rapido uses them in all their locomotives. The sound you will hear is the basic steam locomotive sound that comes with the decoder there are 14 different sounds and 8 different bells to choose from. This is a copy of my operators' card for the locomotive which shows all the functions for the decoder I have installed by the way it only cost US\$ 31.00.

#100 The John Bull, Camden to Pennsylvania Railroad Bachmann - DC converted to DCC XL Systems

#1911 Steam Locomotive In service in 1831 to 1981







I need to get some lead into the boiler for weight because the very thin wires going from the locomotive to the tender move the locomotive engine around and I do get connection losses.





The Functions:

F0 – Lights On/Off, F1 – Bell, F2 – Whistle, F3 – Carriages Lights On/Off, F4 – Coupling 1,  
F5 – Service Brake Squeal at high speed & reduce to 0, F6 – Chuff Sound On/Off (drifting),  
F7 – Fire Box Open/Close, F8 – Water Injector, F9 – Metal Crank Sound Moving – Steam Sound Idle,  
F10 – Water Filling, F11 – Blower Hiss Sound On/Off (With delay), F12 – Sound On/Off,  
F13 – Master Volume Reduce CV49 by 1 / air release, F14 – Master Volume Increase CV49 by 1 / air  
release,  
F15 – Associated Loco Sound, F16 – Shovelling, F17 – Coal Auger Sound On/Off with delay,  
F18 – Bell Type Select – 7 different bells, F19 – Whistle Type Select – 14 different ones,  
F20 – Air Hose Firing – Uncoupling Lever, F21 – Flange Noise, F22 – Associated Loco Sound,  
F23 – Flange Noise, F24 – Chuff Type Select - 6 different types, F25 – Long Air Release,  
F26 – Sand Dropping, F27 & F28 – Associated Loco Sound

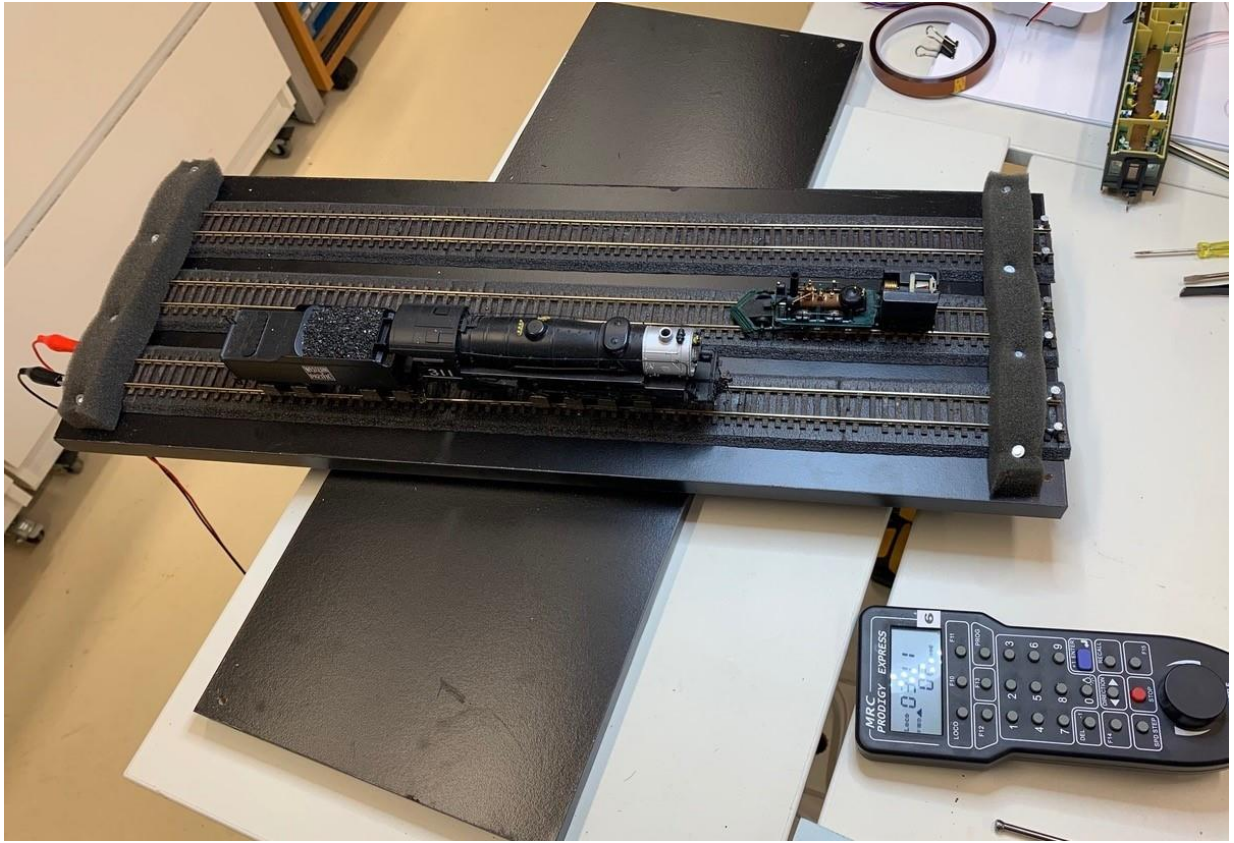
I should mention that this is a real unit train as I have the passenger cars all linked with lighting wire from the DCC decoder. The carriages could not have the metal wheels, so I connected to the MARS lighting F3 function on the decoder/

### **Carousel or Turn Table**

You all may remember my photos and email on what happened to my Royal Hudson steam locomotive when I had it up on a piece of test track and on the rolling road wheels. I lifted the test track up to turn the locomotive around so I could inspect the other side and the locomotive did a nosedive into the concrete floor. I then sent the locomotive back to Rapido for repairs explaining what happened and they fixed it under warranty and returned it to me.

So, lesson learned, here is my fix to using the rolling road on test track. You can see three sections of track with foam at each end to stop runaways. You can also see there are two layers of black MDF (left over scrap pieces from building cabinets). The track is mounted on that foam rather than cork again stuff I did not use on my layout. In the top left corner, you can see a large finishing nail there is also one on the left bottom side as well.





These two nails prevent the top section with the tracks from turning on the lazy Susan that is installed between the two sections of MDF. These lazy Susan cost about \$12 at Bunnings.





## Robin FOSTER:

Many projects are earmarked for the workshop, some being started where some were abandoned as difficulty & engineering issues surfaced where following much procrastination moved on to a HO Joeuf SNCF steam locomotive finally making it to the front of the que for DCC.

This item being purchased from a recent TPA auction for a planned 'Orient Express'. Disassembly was one of the areas of difficulty as having no diagram to layout of parts. These were produced in the 60 / 70's being a piece of robust technology for the time. Slow-n-steady proved the key where having the sense to take photographs for reference proved a great idea. The bolts to the screws were a little rusty requiring some care to remove, then placing into an area so they are 'not lost or misplaced'. Some gentle manipulations / persuasion removing the various component's, bulkhead, motor, shell from chassis continually checking that no damage to other parts. The motor was a real gem to sight having brass worm to brass gears, which rotated freely on the track, not like the way one expected to worm / gears locking the wheels as on items today.

First the running modifications where the front bogie plastic wheels were replaced with Proto 33" flat back and the trailing bogie plastic wheels with Hornby R8264 14.1 mm metal 2-hole axle set, these will require at some stage the removal / cutting off of the axle points.

As the locomotive motor pick up power through the main drive wheels, 2 each side, the centre wheels are flangeless, the need for a Keep alive being a factor a LAISDCC 8 pin decoder with KA leads with DCconcepts DCD-ZSA1 ZEN stay alive.

The tender was the choice to install the dcc & other components as the cavernous area was available.

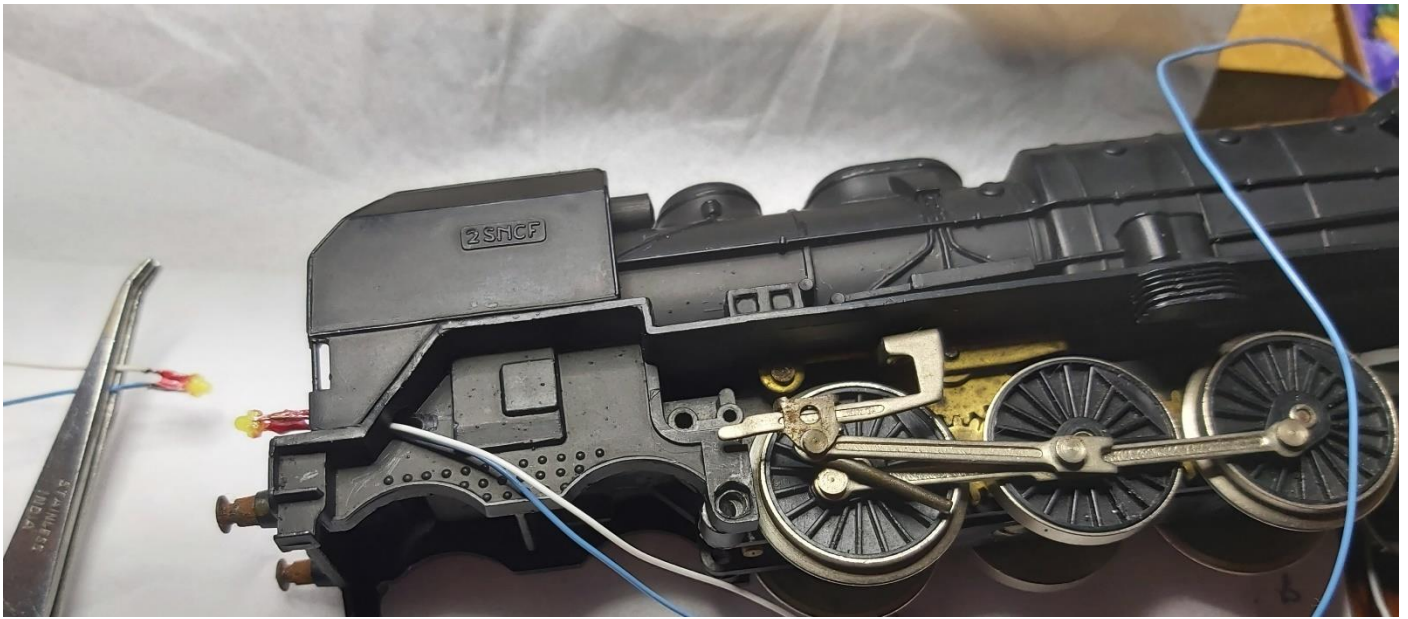
A quick test fit of the P2K E6 PCB 8 pin connector & decoder, the spigot on left was latter removed.



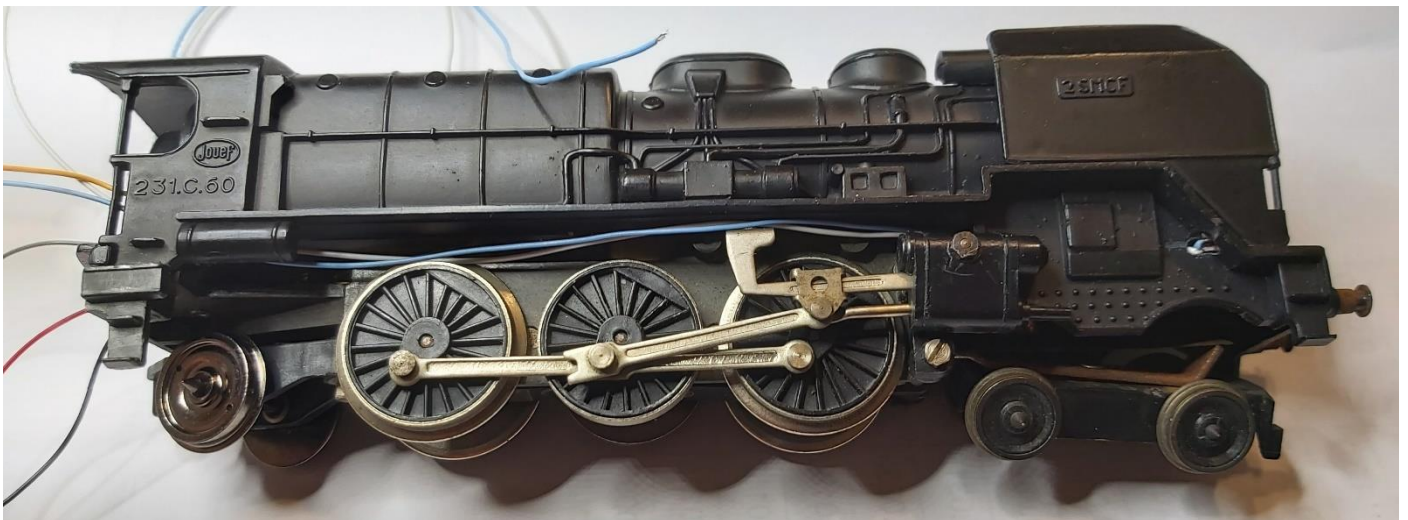
The 'original' non-operating front lights were just clear plastic which really screamed to be lit, SMD LED were the answer but this again required some thought as to loom those wires to the decoder being located in the tender where procrastination surfaced yet again where a moment of light, pardon the pun, came to the fore.

Wiring the LED's, threading of the wires to the cab via the boiler wasn't going to work as there was a front weight & the can motor restricted any space, so the only way was to use an external means above the driving wheels however the colour of the wires wasn't acceptable.

Drilling out the holes for the headlamps to accept the SMD LED's the [A & K] wire leads were coated with Liquid Electrical Tape (red, at the base of the led ) to prevent any shorting, threading the wires into the side drilled hole then back towards the piston along the underside of the footplate towards the cab.



The blue & white of the plastic sheathing of the wires really stands out, note the flangeless wheel



Placing those wires in black heat shrink then tucking between the underside of the foot plate did the trick.

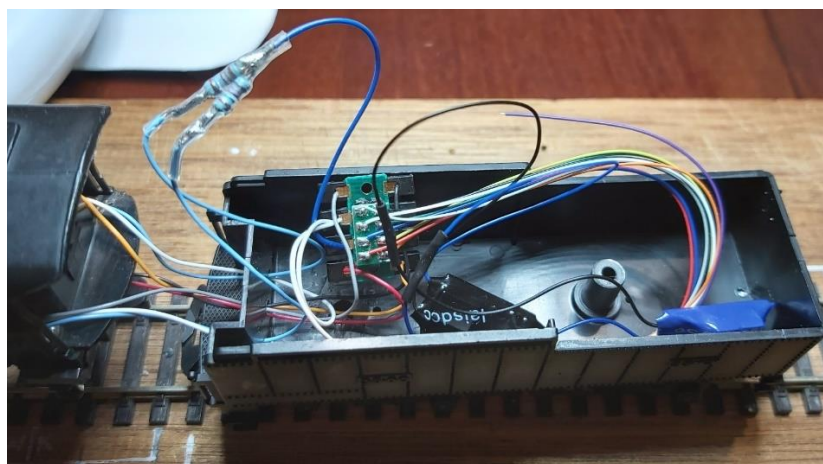




Testing the installation, loco placed on rollers using a Bachmann decoder, 'just in case of a fry'.



Wiring is not one of my forte, where many adjustments to cutting excess wire length, however the completed wiring to decoder with KA, from the locomotive through to the tender may not look pretty but is functional for easy access if required with the coal top being removable if any faults or repairs are required, there is also plenty of room for addition of a speaker for sound by removal of the second spigot which were used for screwing the top to the base which are no longer required.



Retaining the 8-pin plug rather 'cutting off' to hard wiring for me has been a good choice.

Replacing the metal Hornby coupler with a Kadee 148 in a Kadee 242 coupler box on the tender completed the project.

Result, a light rail test on a layout being the highlight where the loco ran faultlessly, next is to locate those coaches for a real test of capabilities.

### A trio of Rivarossi Krauss Maffei's

undergoing testing & modifications, on the right is an undecorated has the original Rivarossi motor the decoder is a LAIS 870021 KA & DCconcepts ZEN stay alive, LED lights, the SP & DRG are unpowered. Considering their age as the motor, ran very well drawing 0.35 Amp. Details to project soon.



## FOR SALE, WANTED & FREEBIES

### **Brad HINTON:**

HO scale B40-8 locos liveried for "Cotton Belt" for sale (DC). They have the latest Walthers Mainline shells and the older Trainline mechanism with the heavy weight in the fuel tank. (I used the Walthers Mainline mechs for another project because they had Soundtraxx DCC installed). These DC locos have been tested recently and run fine. Sale price: \$100 each



Brad also has a box of back issues of the French language magazine, Loco Revue. There are 20-30 issues around the 2005-2010 era (roughly) The whole lot is free to a good home. Pick up from my place

### **The last say.**

"Are we there yet", is the question, afraid not as this pandemic is more like a day at the beach where waves of various sizes will be rolling through the suburbs. Spring is just around the corner where having 'outdoor' activities, we so crave for, will be hard to stay in control, however indoor activities on our projects being the quest for fulfilment until the re-start of those hobby exhibitions.

Austerity Frugal & Recycle.

### **Remember and adhere to those ~COVID-19~ restrictions.**

Continue on with that 'BLING' for those at home 'show-n-tell' articles to your projects & articles for the September edition of The FLIMSY.

Keep on training.

Robin.

Division 2 Hosted meetings have been postponed for the foreseeable future & will be advised when the 'COVID 19' restrictions are either lifted / crisis is over, in the meantime it is planned to continue on with Monthly emailed issues of The FLIMSY.

2020 if you are interested in hosting a meeting this year contact Stephe who will provide necessary information.

The FLIMSY contact [robinfoster@inet.net.au](mailto:robinfoster@inet.net.au)