

# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

June 2022

In this issue.

Message Div 2 Superintendent ~ Div 2 meeting & at home Show-n-tell ~ The last say

## **COVID-19 ~ Adhere to medical advice & instructions.**

The variants to COVID-19 are causing more concern than realised, hence masks are highly recommended in CROWDED AREAS as safe hygiene practices and with Winter nearing a 'flu shot' is also recommended

### **Message from our Div 2 Super, Stephen O'BRIEN.**

Group photo of members from Saturday's meeting.



These eight of possibly twelve posters were produced between 1930 and 1950. Collectively, they advertise the joy of travelling both east west across Australia and south north to the continent's centre from Adelaide via the Australian National Railways. A full set is in the NSW Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

Ian was assured these are not common but upon revelation at the meeting, Eric Whatman advised us he had the same set! Now, we're not sure how common they are. Nevertheless, they are a wonderful set and all we lack now is a wall or two to decorate to display their fullness in vivid detail.

## June meeting Show-n-tell.

### Ian BARNES:

The Div 2 meeting at Batemans Bay NSW was very successful. I got some good feedback from attendees.

The NMRA banner featured at the entry



George SAISANUS, John GILLIES at the EMRC layout, viewing Warren BACKHOUSE & John MARTIN.



20 participants at the meeting



Stephe JITTS, Wal PYWELL and John GILLIES with their Lucky Door Prizes



There was plenty of room to move about the meeting venue



The buy/swap/sell tables were popular



Peter ROBINS and Gavin BENNETT discuss the merits of Z scale



Ross BALDERSON was presented with four awards by Div 2 Superintendent Stephen O'BRIEN

Certificate of Achievement AP Model cars



Certificate of Achievement AP Engineer Civil



Certificate of Achievement AP Engineer Electrical



Certificate of Achievement Master Model Railroader



## At home ~ Show-n-tell.

### Ross BALDERSON:

These are 3 new additions to Newcastle's rolling stock collection that I have just completed. The first of NSW horse boxes from 1855. They have been drawn using Corel Draw then etched in brass.



This is a view looking along Scott Street with steam tram number 10 and one of Steve Curry's steam trams passing at Newcastle's station. The street now has scratch-built telegraph poles added to the full length of the scene.



Ross's NEWCASTLE layout is 'N' scale.



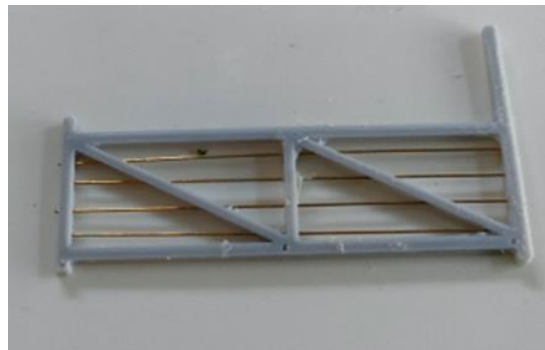
**David VIRGO:**

A roadside billboard (HO scale) based on an early 1960s photo. The artwork was made using magazine advertising images and the final image printed on decal paper. The billboard was 3D printed in 2 layers, a front and back. This helps prevent warping which is a problem for thin flat 3D prints.

The water tank K wagon is still awaiting its final coat of paint and a decal or two



NSWGR yard gates from David's layout



Based on an article in AJRM #6, I produced a simple gate using the 3D printer. The method was printing 2 very thin sides and then gluing and "sandwiching" the wires in between them. The long diagonal brace was made from very thin styrene strip and brass rod



## **George SAISANAS:**

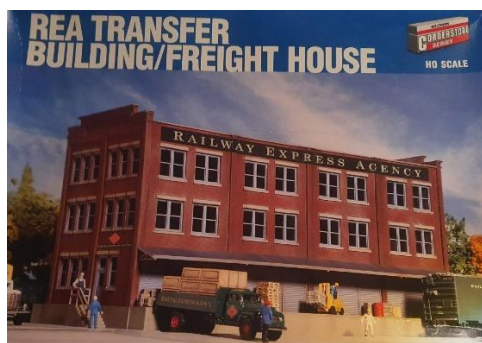
This is SDS Models 81 class locomotive in HO that I received earlier this year. It was the NSW Railways (SRA) first 3000 Hp diesel electric locomotive released in 1982 and revolutionised the way the railways were operated in the state. The 81 class was to be SDS Models' first locomotive release announced a few years ago (2015) and not being satisfied with previous models of this class I had owned, I jumped at the opportunity. Thing is, it was a long wait, but not as long as some other models, as they had acquired Austrains a few years back, this ended up not actually being their first locomotive release, it is however a commendable model rectifying the motor, body moulding and painting issues of past manufacturers. It is a DC model with nice detail & LED marker lights. I believe their DCC sound models are still to be released but expected this year. It's pictured on Ian Barnes' East Coast Railway on the Grady's Creek Timber Company Branch (which is a DC section on his layout). I look forward to running it on my heavy freights when I get my layout rebuilt.



## **Ben FEATHERSTON:**

I started building an REA building for the layout. I started with the standard Walthers kit however the building would be too wide for the available space, and I also wanted the provision to run an express baggage/post into the building for transfer or unloading operations.

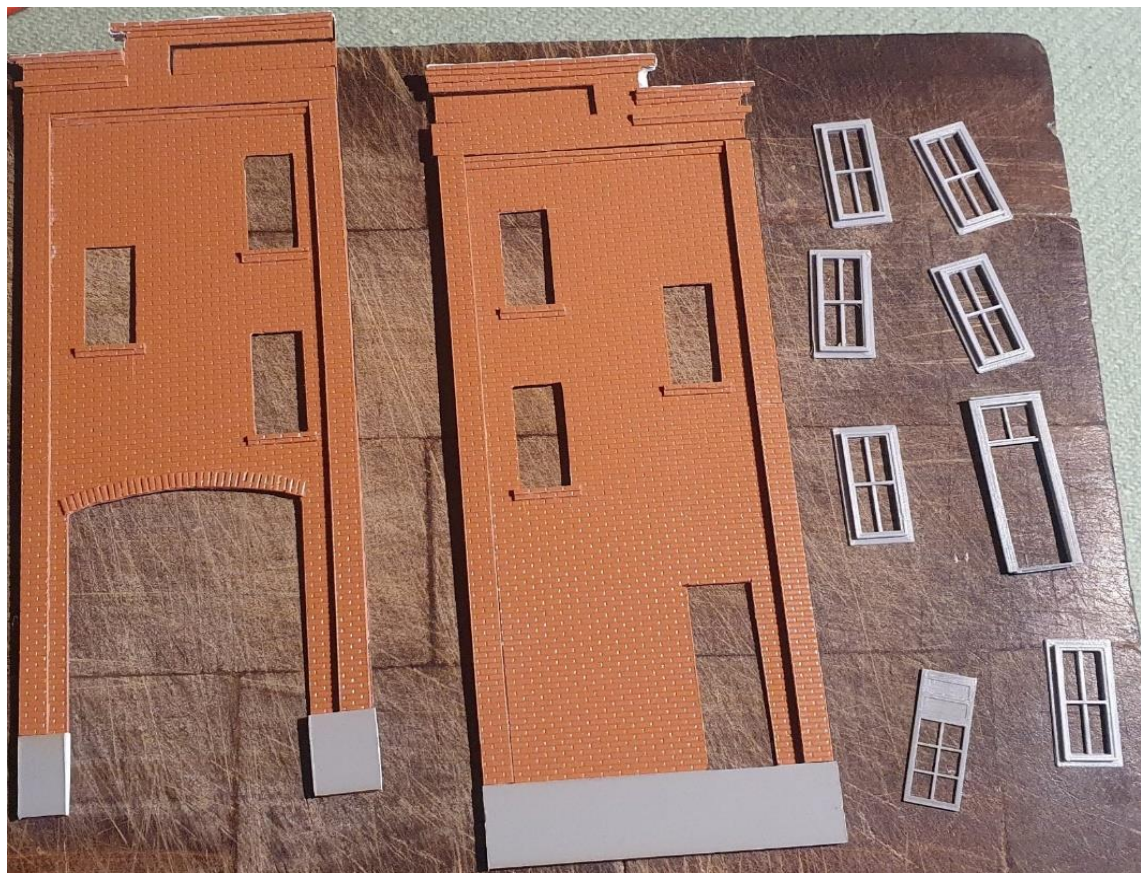
While it is not yet complete, this project is undergoing refinements.



I had looked at several options for this space but in the end elected to scratch build some ends for it using the sidewalls from the kit.



I used some brick card using the dimensions from just under half the original sides which would fit within the space.



When it came to windows, I was originally going to use the kit ones however found them very chunky and unappealing in the finer walls I had made. I caught up with David Virgo and he very kindly adapted some NSW windows and they looked great in the space.

A door from the supplies box and the sides were ready for painting, The walls are finished in Vallejo German Red Brown, with a wash of silver grey to make the details stand out.

All other parts / details finished in Vallejo Air acrylics also adding lights under the awning and above the door.



Now the fun begins as I add it to the layout. The final photo shows it mocked up in place, although a few clearance issues appear to persist.

**Rob NESBITT:**

NR115 derailed in Junee this morning. Only just found out. Emergency call out for the Wagga crane.

How long it will be before the sidings are back. These are very important for the VISY and wheat freight trains. I was told the last call out for a crane cost close to \$100K. Shame the steam crane in the roundhouse is not operational.



Rob's blog <http://buildingwagga.blogspot.com/> for the updates which now have some interesting history to areas visited.

**Robin FOSTER:**

Unable to attend the Div 2 June meeting down the South Coast, Batemans Bay NSW, the following S&T items are presented.

The Citadel holder has proved to be another winner for the toolbox, the jaws expand for figures to the HO 32' [110mm] trailer, the clamping is secure without damaging the item.



## Modifying the LIMA DSB MZ to an Independent Rail Australia (IRA)

As no plans are available for measuring one must rely on photographs where the main area being the removal of the side windows adding styrene for the 'smooth sides' then removal of the roof top hatches, requiring lots of cutting & scraping then sanding.



This project has been in the process for some five plus years, with an ATHEARN SD40-2 modified chassis



Lower left: DSB front original windscreen

Lower right: MZ modified windscreen and deflectors



WEST HILL HUNT Couplings: There are couplers & then there are couplers; this item has lots of potential for those pieces of rolling stock where coupling / uncoupling those rakes of Coaches as freight wagons can be problematic especially on curves. There are many types on offer which are designed to fit NEM pockets.



Just to clarify, the top right 5 couplers with the holes; are inner, the lower right are the intermediate (long straight with the tails) are designed mainly for use on British 'OO' coaches with the NEM pockets on the BOGIES!

Finding a container of PECO Wonderful wagon underframe kit 9' OO wagon kits, PARKSIDE DUNDAS vans, DAPOL brake van kits then constructing them then fitting the Hunt couplings is part of the challenge to modelling.

My first attempt was fitting one of the Coupling to replace the HORNBY tension lock with the Standard NEM Draw Bars of the Sapol FEA-B "Spine" Wagons - OO Gauge at the bunker end of the HORNBY 0-4-2 14XX and a PECO wagon. Shows a slight difference to coupler height but works well, adjustments later.



The magnet is surprisingly strong and will 'find & centre' if couplers are offset and are easy to separate to rerail / remove / add / interchange rolling stock.



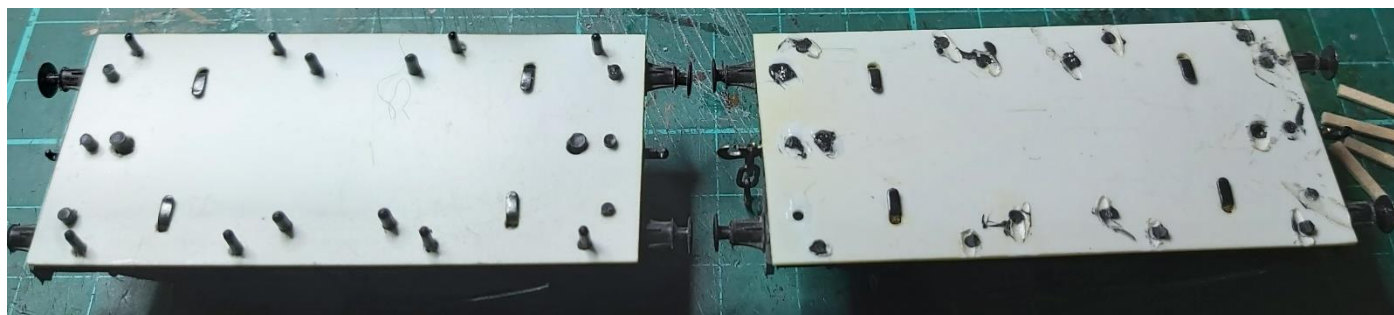
Constructing a PECO 9' & 10' underframes, these are a challenge as I planned to use these as flat wagon's as I didn't have van sides but do have fruit van ends, this could be another project for 3D printing.

The PECO template for marking out the floor is used to locate where the holes for drilling out for the pins, then a base is measured and cut using EVERGREEN 1.5mm styrene.

Right: is the pins through the styrene with the metal sole bars bent over.

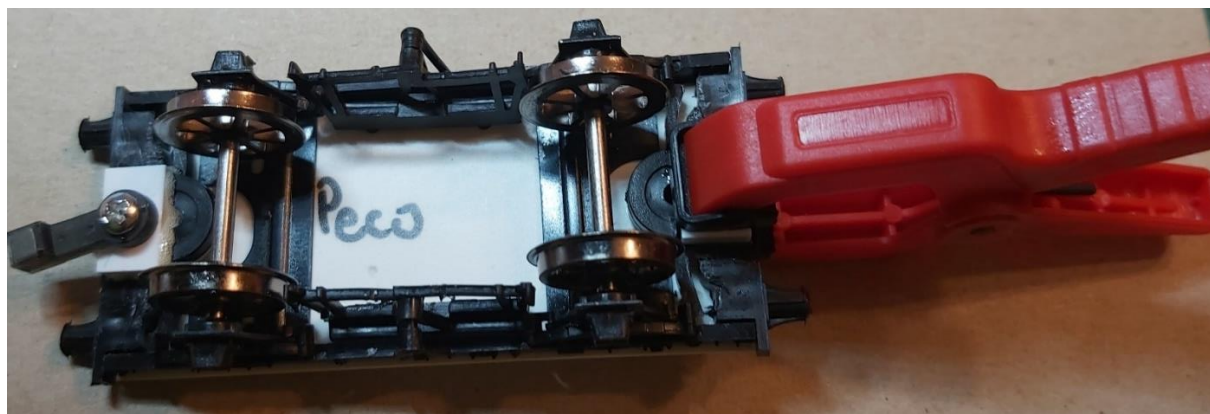
Left: the pins heated with a soldering iron to secure the frame to the styrene.

Ideal if using 'van' body which will be hidden.



The clamp is holding a styrene block using Gorilla glue. Pays to read the instructions as the first time I used it, it doesn't act like 'other glues', one part is coated with the glue and the other part dabbed with water using a cotton bud then mated & clamped for a few hours.

Drill & tap using 1/4" long 2-56 screws to secure the coupling the KADEE plastic sleeve adaptor was used to alleviate a small 'slop', HORNBY 12.6 mm spoked Wheels with 26 mm axle with ROMFORD bearings were installed for better running Q.

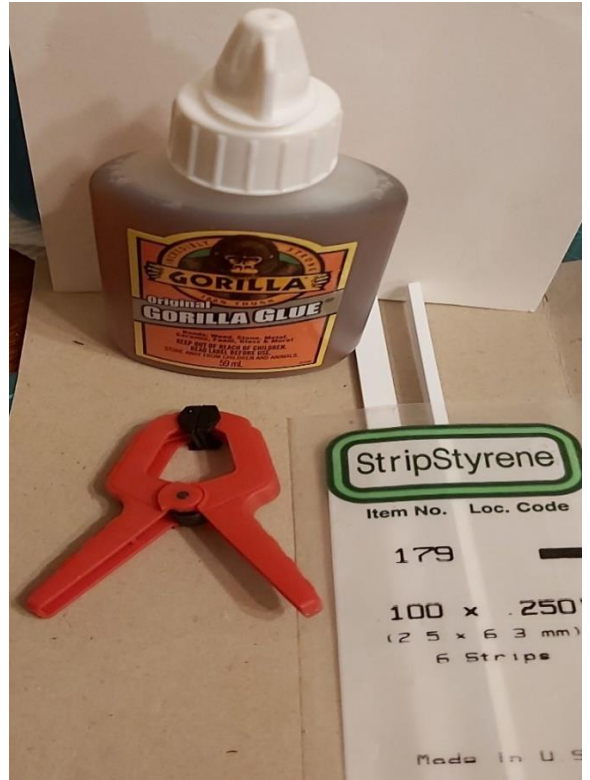
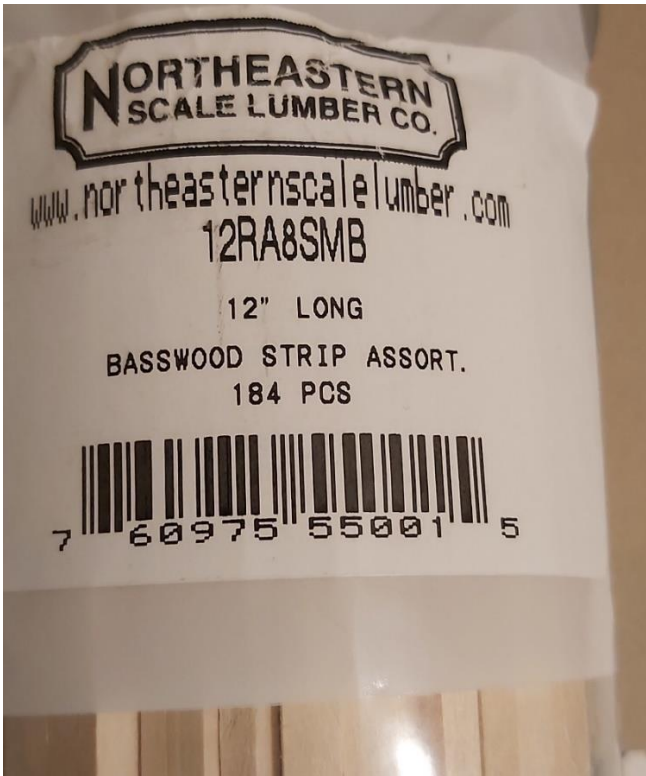




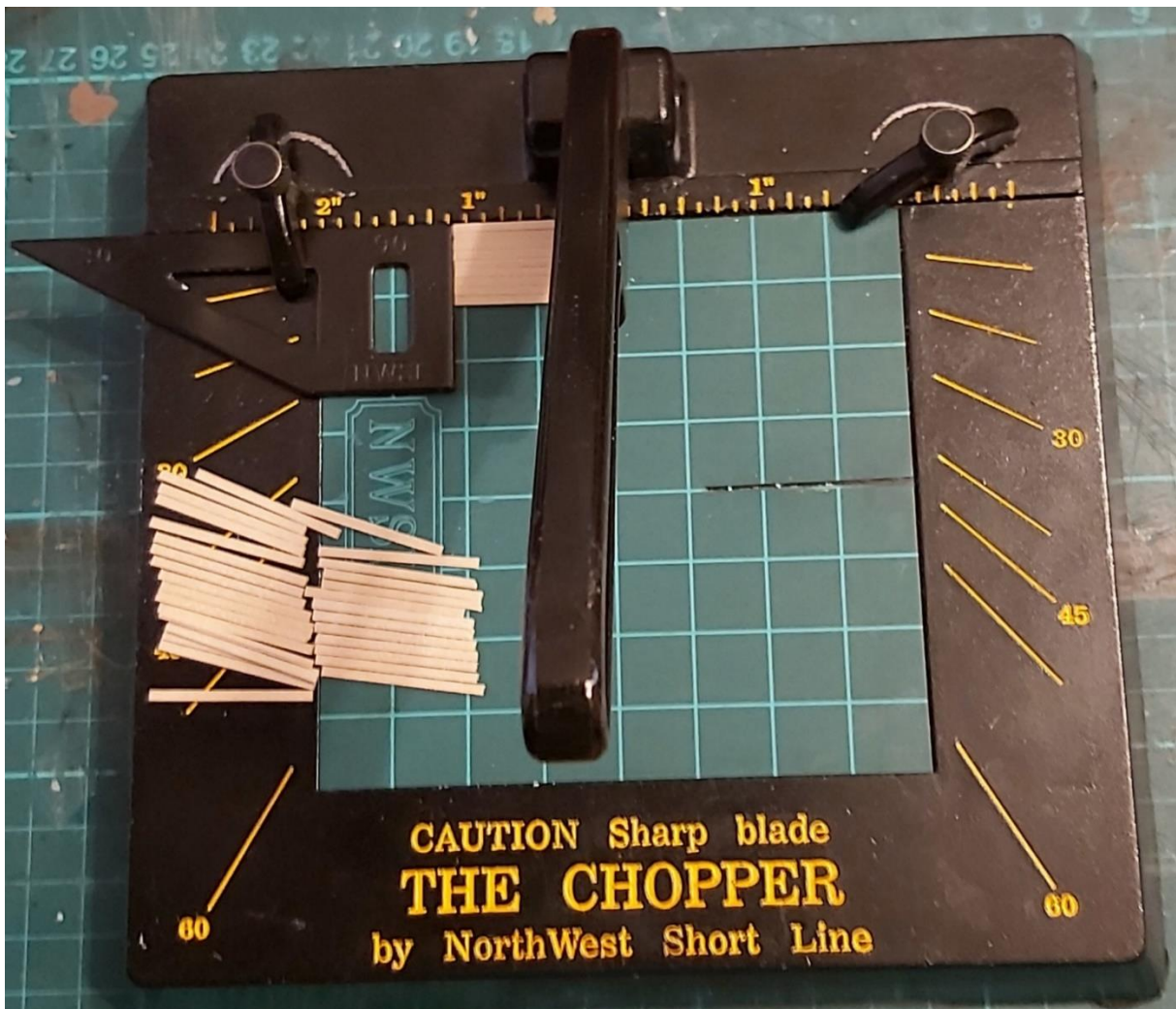
Now for the new flooring

NORTHEASTERN Basswood lumber, size to suit

GORILLA Glue, clamp, EVERGREEN styrene



The CHOPPER, the one item I just cannot do without, makes cutting identical parts easy & quickly.



Start of the wooden floor; Gorilla glue very lightly spread using a toothpick to the styrene then using a cotton bud water dabbed to the bottom of the Basswood, those 'metal tabs' took some thinking time to find a solution to cover over.



Not quite right but then again not all parts do fit even on the prototype.



Staining the woodwork, CITADEL colour shade Seraphim Sepia, purchased for another project to add 'colour' to the HORNBY TEAK coaches, was tried and as can be seen looks great highlighting the grain of the basswood.



First light coat using a flat brush.



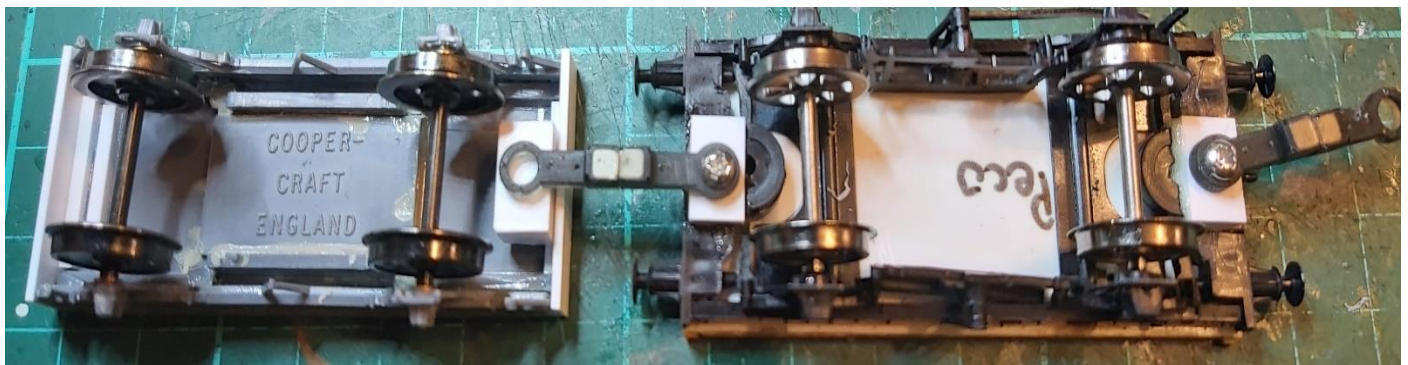
The HUNT Couplers can be 'reversed' if required.



COOPER CRAFT 9' OO under construction, require 'buffer beams' made with styrene as these are not supplied with the kits as it is intended for general goods / fruit vans etc & coal wagons, giving the case for 'modellers licence' to be the rule. Perhaps suitable for a generic NSW engineers' Departmental flat wagon?

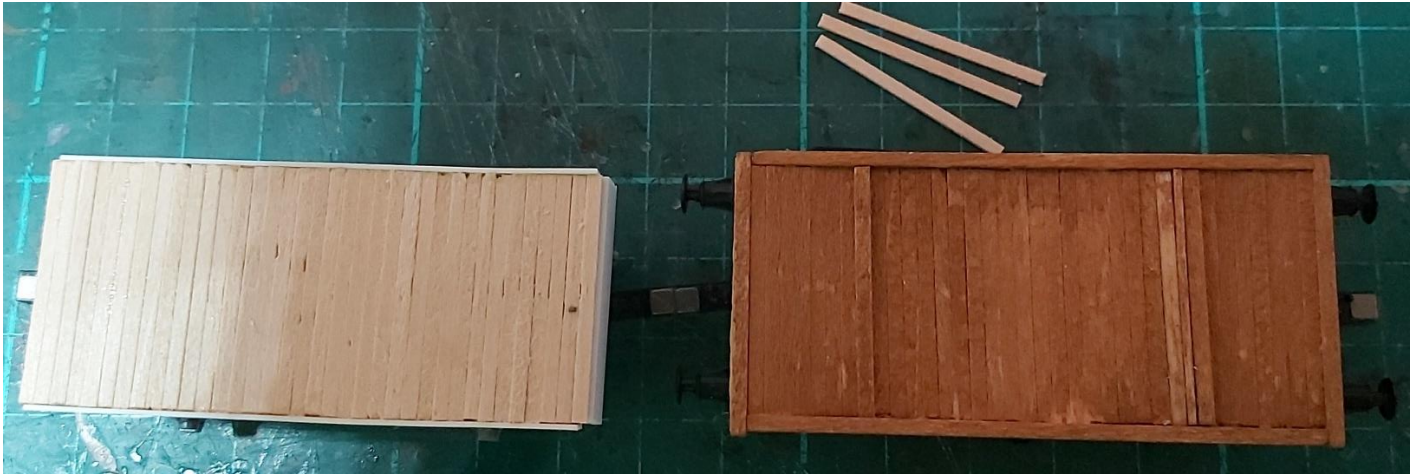


Test fitting, one nice feature of these couplers is they connect so the height can be gauged and adjusted also a handy way to keep the next one handy, connected far right.



Below left: Raw basswood

Below right: second coat of the stain



Left below: first coat, note the painter's error.

Below right: first coat stain



Removed the stain & paint with a fibre brush, re stained area with light coat allowed to cure & then a heavier coat will dry to a lighter shade, its all to do with one's preferences.



### Jack CHILD:

Nifty power solution for those little Arduino and other projects. I was looking for a better way to power my Arduino Speed wagon as I was not completely happy with the replaceable 9-volt alkaline battery solution. I stumbled across a rechargeable 9-volt lithium-ion battery which turned out to be ideal.



There are several rechargeable 9v lithium-ion batteries on the market. Some are recharged through the contacts on the end of the battery, but it was the micro-USB that caught my eye. I selected the battery with the USB connector on the end rather than the side as this looked a bit better in the wagon. This allows me to recharge the battery without removing it from the wagon and reduces the risk of damage.

These batteries display their charging status with a red/green led in the end of the battery, which is visible through a 2mm fibre optic plug in the rear of the wagon.

They are readily available on eBay for about \$15.

**Note:** choose a battery which is rated at 9v, not the nominal 8.4v rating of some of the batteries.



**John MARTIN:**

Latest eBay purchase has been through my “upgrade” process. It’s an Atlas 3500cf cylindrical hopper, originally released by Atlas circa 1999. This is what it looked like when I received it.



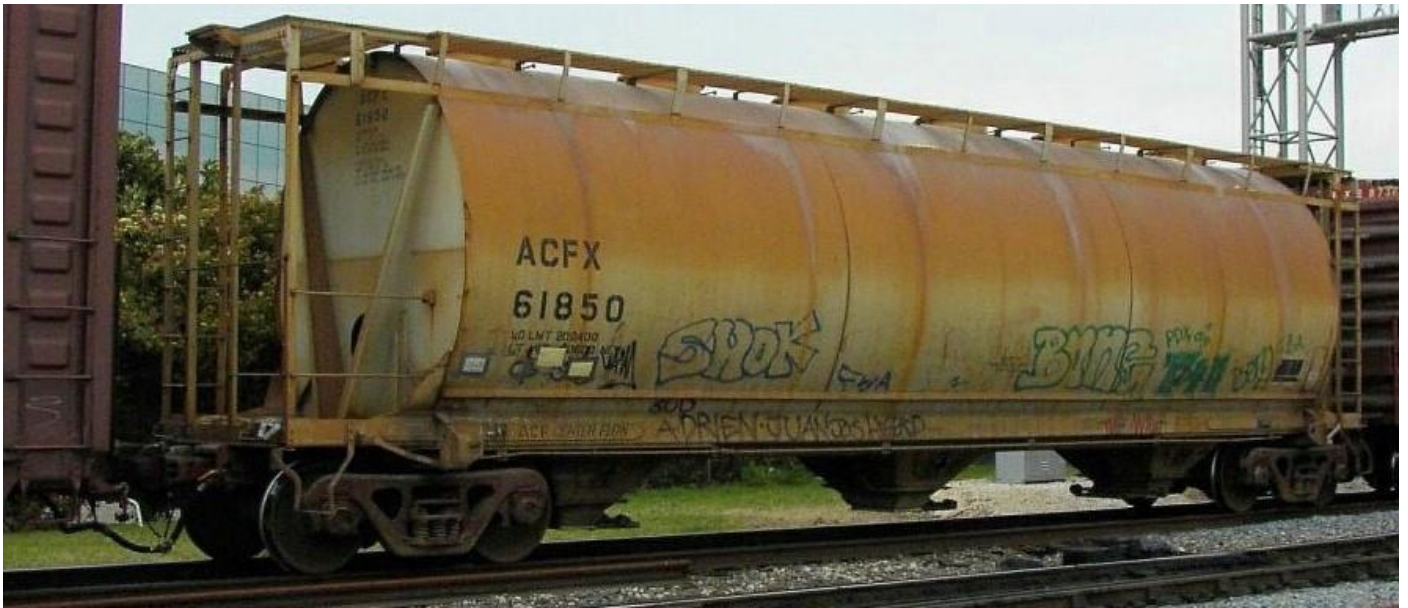
The first thing I did was to remove two obsolete bits of data signage (the capacity and the “red circle”



The next step was to remove the plugs that held the bogies in place and replace with metal screws. Then add Kadee air brake hoses.



Next was to start weathering it using the following photos of two wagons still in service post 2010 as inspiration.



After basic weathering, using Tamiya spray cans of light Gray on the top and dark earth on the side sills and bogies, added the rust streaks using Bragdon Enterprises adhesive powders.



I'm happy with the result.

## The last say.

Austerity Frugal & Recycle.

**Remember and adhere to the ~COVID-19~ medical advises and updates.**

Watch emails for updates to Div 2 meetings & continue to 'BLING' to my inbox to the activities of Div 2 members in modelling at home.



Keep on training

Robin.

To comply with current COVID-19 rules meetings will be advised.

2022 is the year yet to be determined for scheduled events, consider & reserve your Expression of Interest for a possible hosting for a Div 2 Meeting.