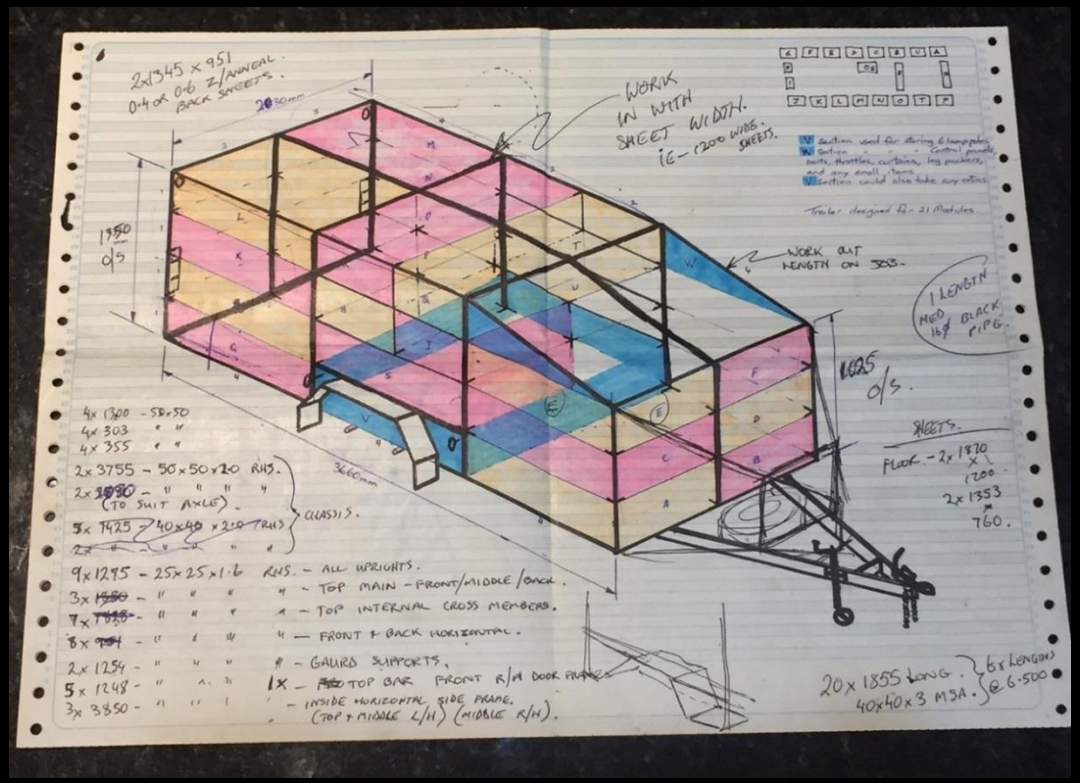
BUILDING EXHIBITION LAYOUTS

TEROWIE NORTH – South Australian Railways in HO scale dual gauge. Consists of 32 modules.

TEROWIE NORTH – South Australian Railways - modular design is the hallmark of my work ethic

A purpose built trailer was built by members of our group at a sheetmetal shop.



The design would carry all modules, lighting gear, carpet curtains, controllers and panels, seats, repair tools and any incidental hardware

Spare wheel and jack.

Trailer has removable doors and carries all the modules and equipment. The only separate items are the locos & rollingstock by members of the group.

TEROWIE NORTH – loading and unloading made simple. There are no tie downs to secure the modules.

TEROWIE NORTH

Wellingford & Bakewell Bridge was my first English exhibition layout built 2007 - 2009 in OO scale

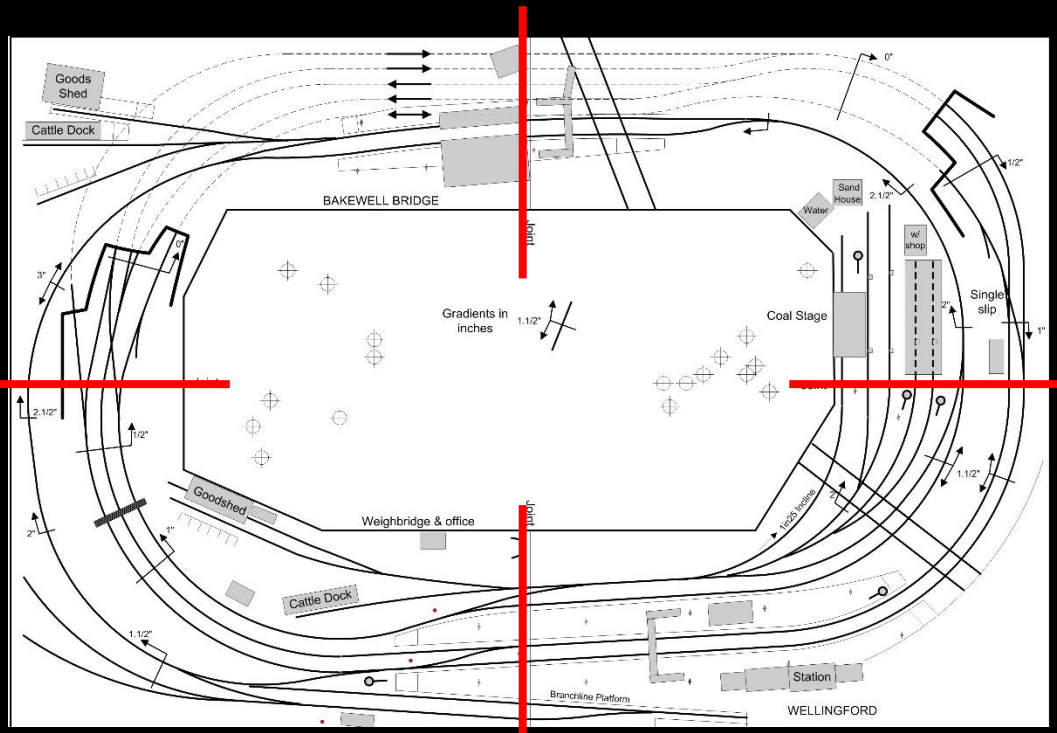
Before constructing the layout…….

- What vehicle to transport the layout in?
- In my case I had a 6 x 4 trailer at the time…
- This would determine the maximum module size…

I worked out a framework to build the box so it was sturdy and could be assembled and pulled down on my own.

Allowing for the inner dimensions of the timberwork, a max. width and length became apparent for each module.

Module shape for this layout design

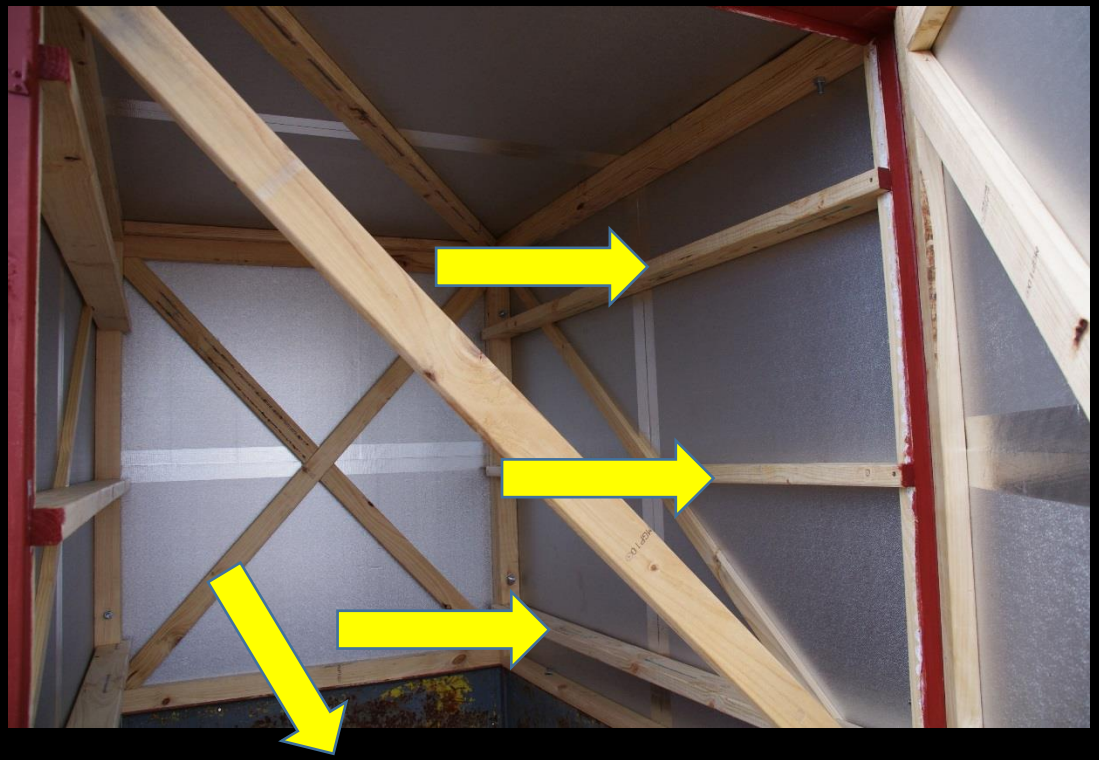


Divided into 4 “L” shaped sections.

Inside box width

Inside box length

Final slide runner locations



Once the height of each of the modules was determined, the level of each of the slide runners was set…

This included all fixed signals, trees and buildings.

The four modules bolted together. All module trackbed joins should have no level differences.

Timber construction with 6mm MDF baseboard

The frames are combination

70 x 19 &

45 x 19mm Pine.

Pros and Cons of traditional baseboard construction

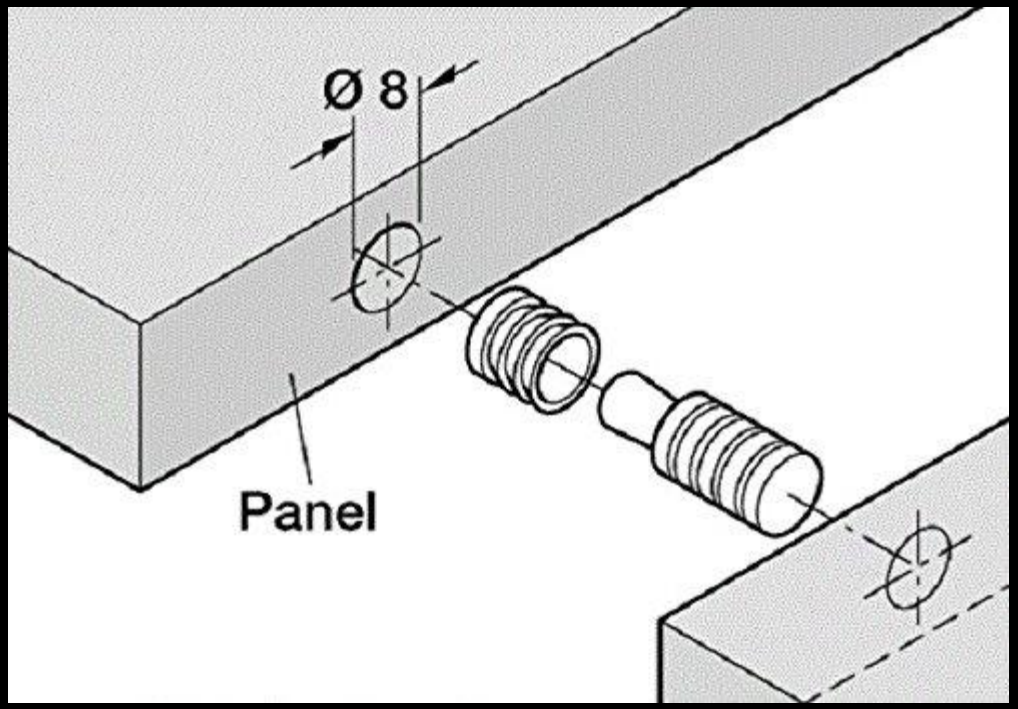
X Never use Chipboard

- Always seal the timberwork
- Double glue all joints
- Use alignment pegs
- Include all facias in final size of the modules AND as part of the scenic construction

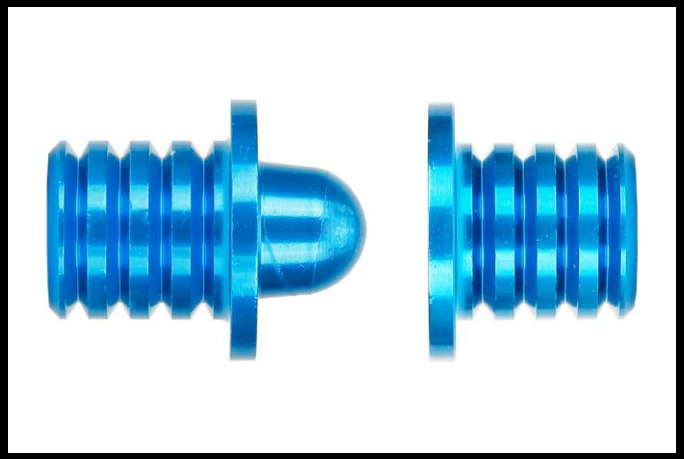
MODULE ALIGNMENT

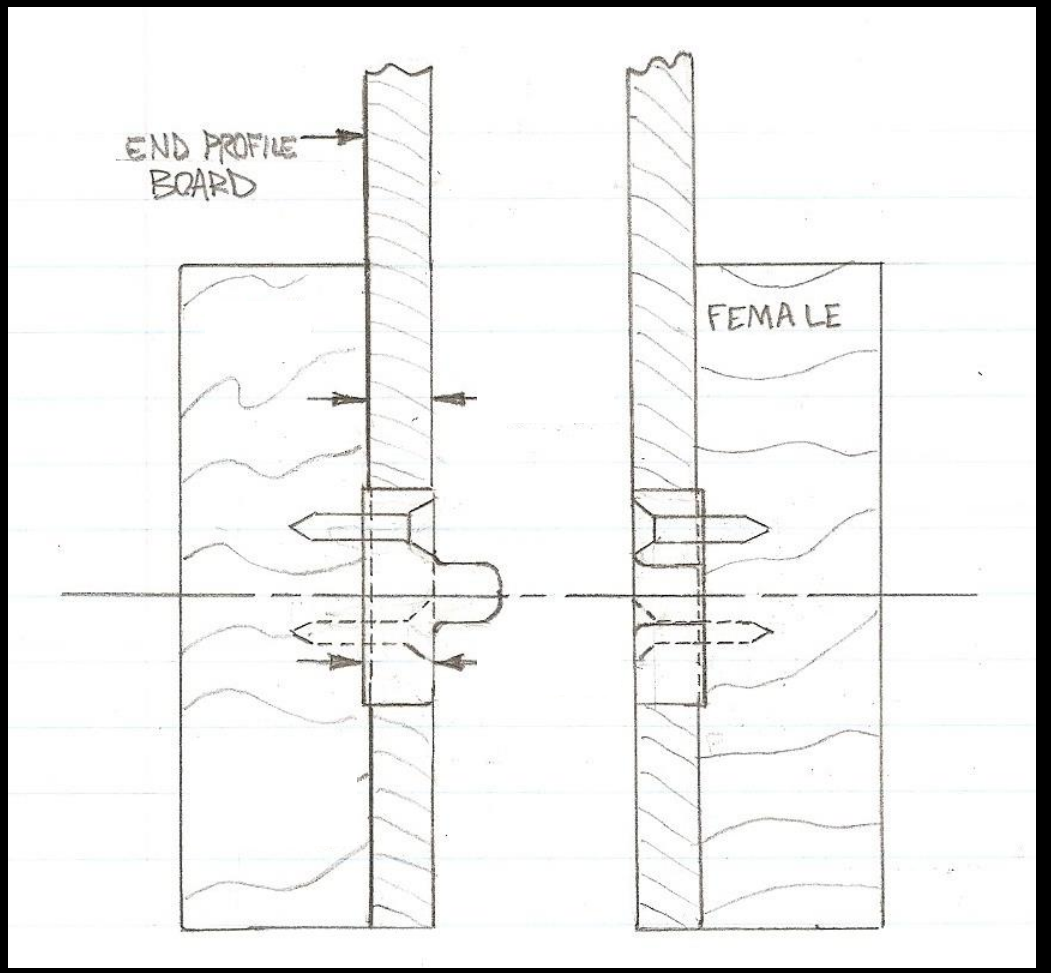
Search engine terms in “IMAGES”
- Model Railway Alignment Dowels

Steel or Brass. They are hammered in with a little PVA glue.



Alternative, usually more expensive dowels that require more work to install.

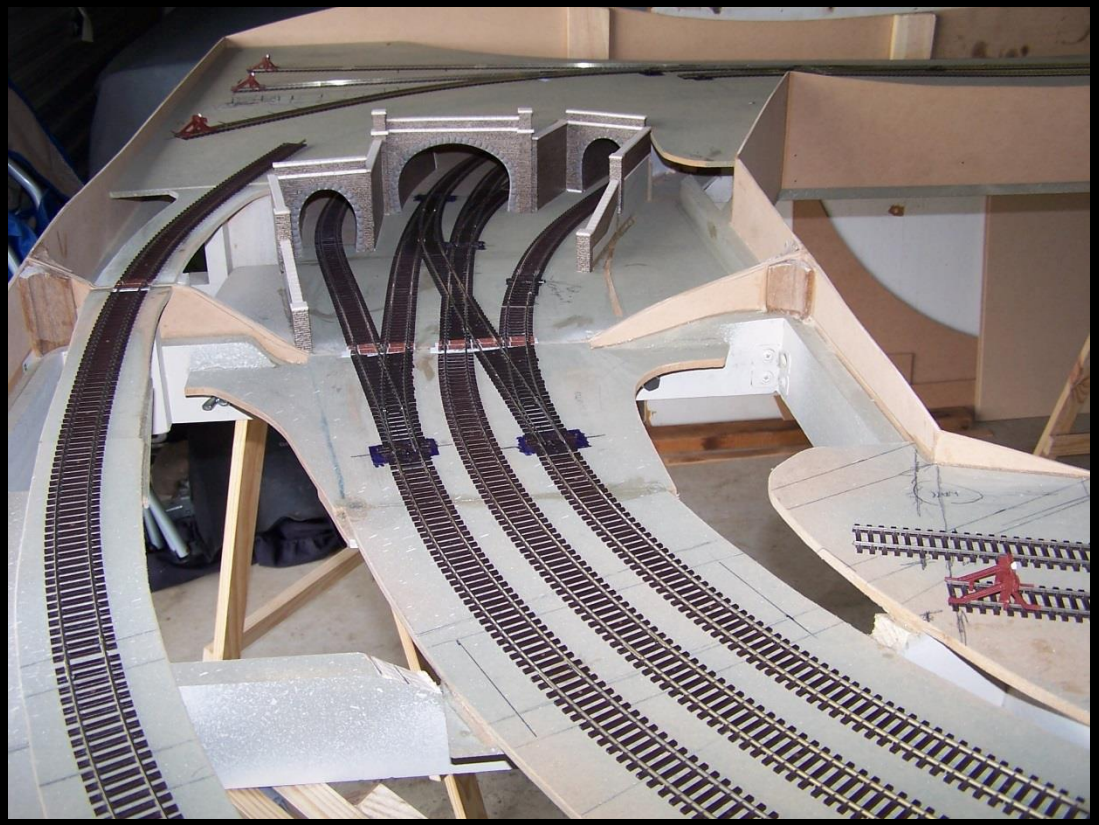


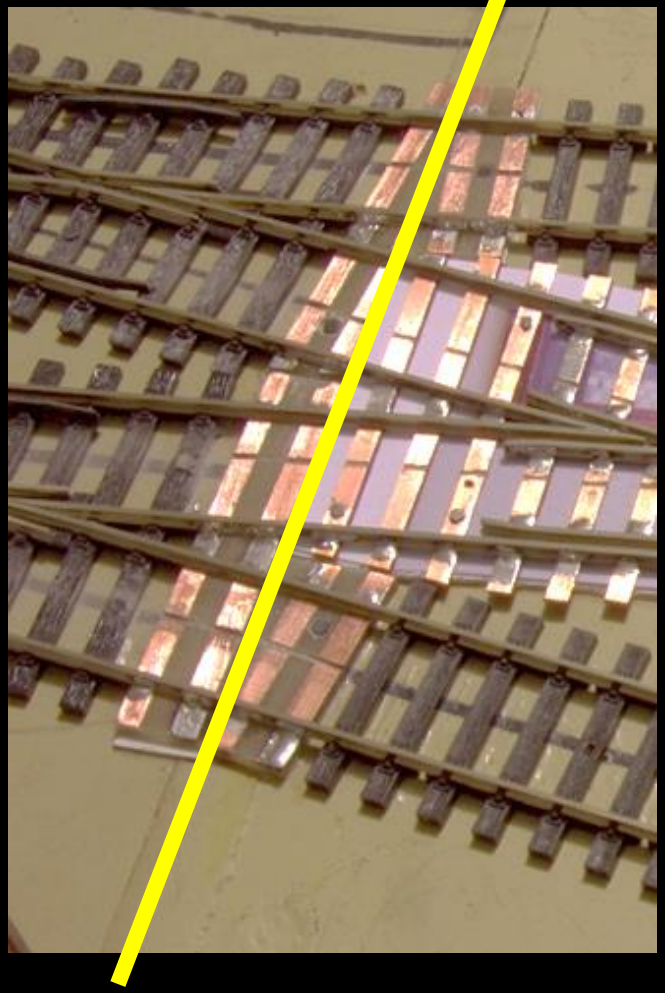


Other considerations….

Any large structures can be built into the baseboards and should be fixed to the facias

All track joins were soldered to a copper PCB





BEFORE Ballasting the track

Use 0.020
yrene strips
for separators in
between the modules

PRESENTING the display…

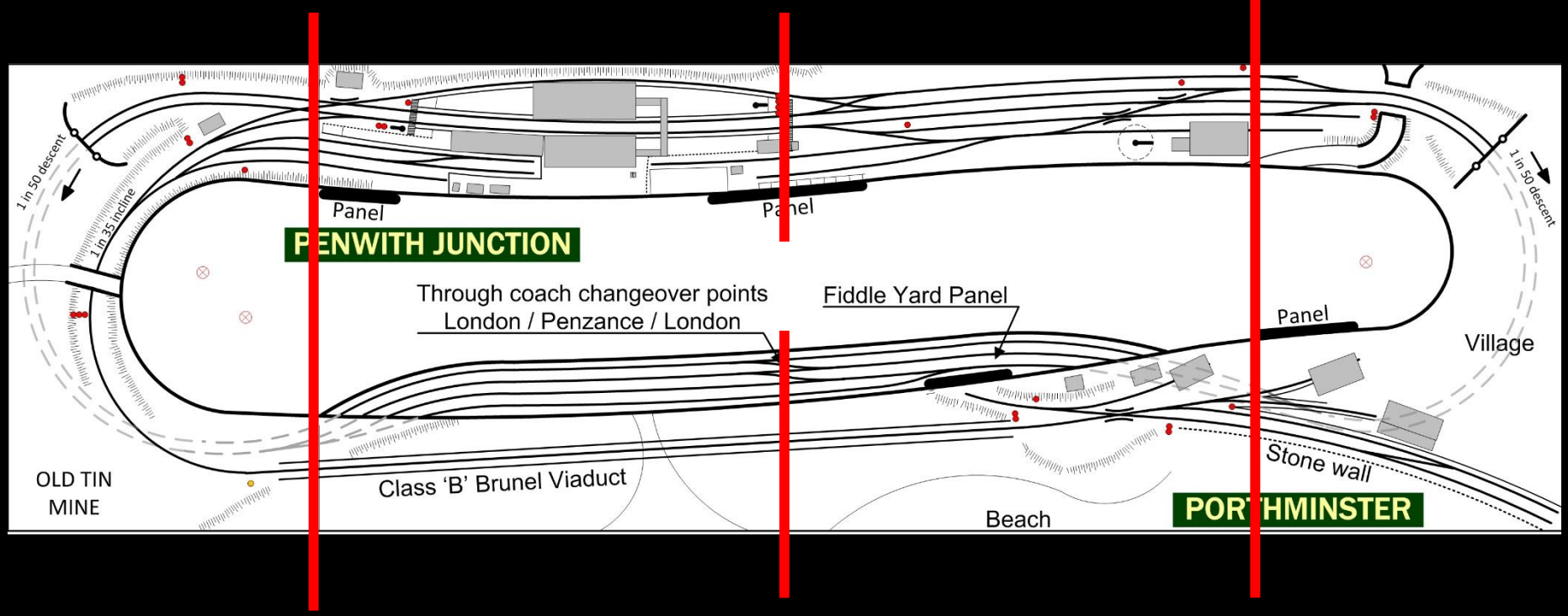
- Pleated curtains with Press Studs.
- Matching fascia and curtain colour.
- Overhead pelmet for lighting.

- Classy lettering in Vinyl in harmony with the railway company on the display.

Presentation is EVERYTHING

- Printed Leaflets about the display

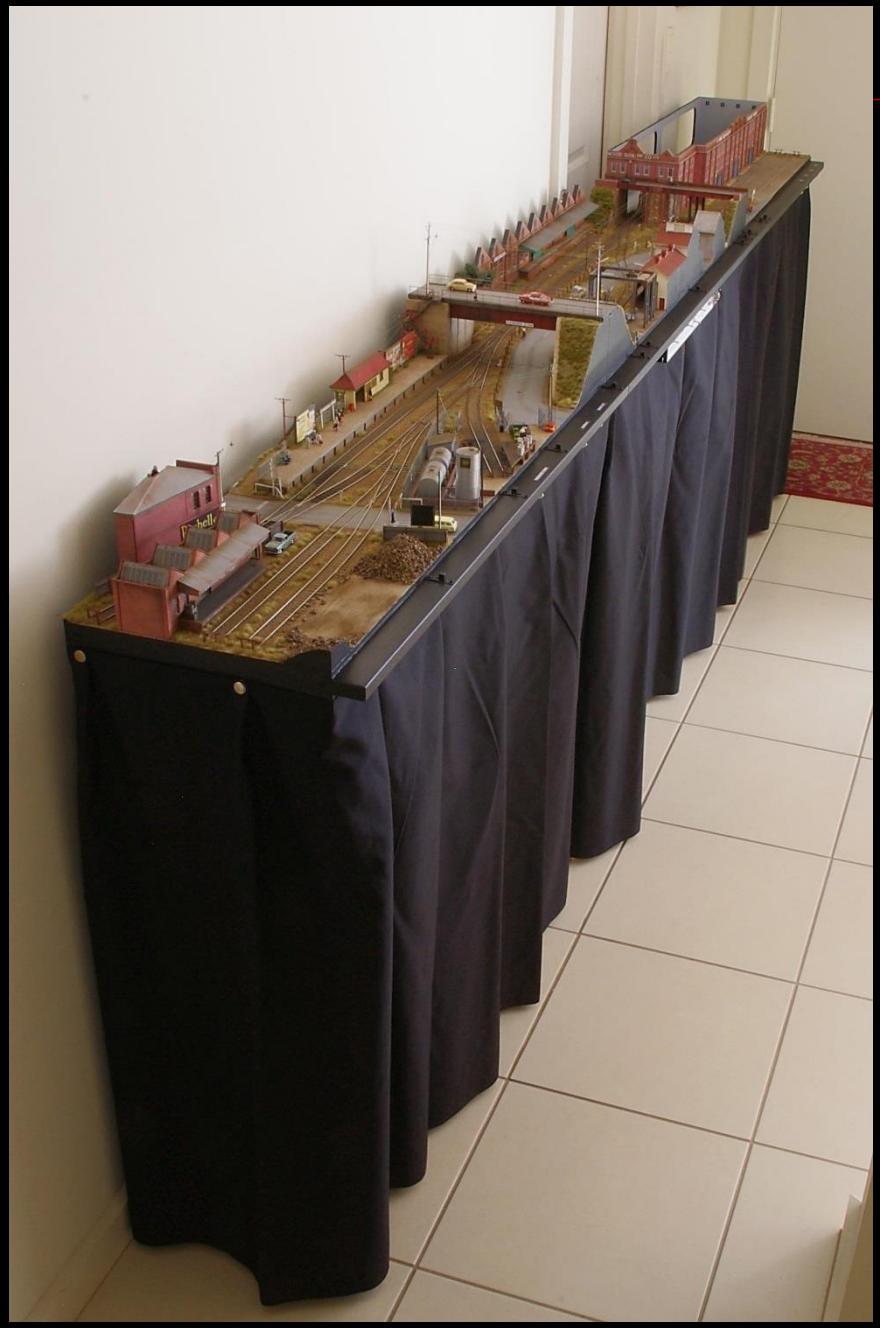
PORTHMINSTER in OO scale



PORTHMINSTER

GREAT MOOR STREET – LMS 1930s in OO scale

Back seat transport



COMMERCIAL STREET – South Australian Railways – 1960s in HO Scale

The second fold away layout built with three modules that are all hinged together, the same as GMS

COMMERCIAL STREET

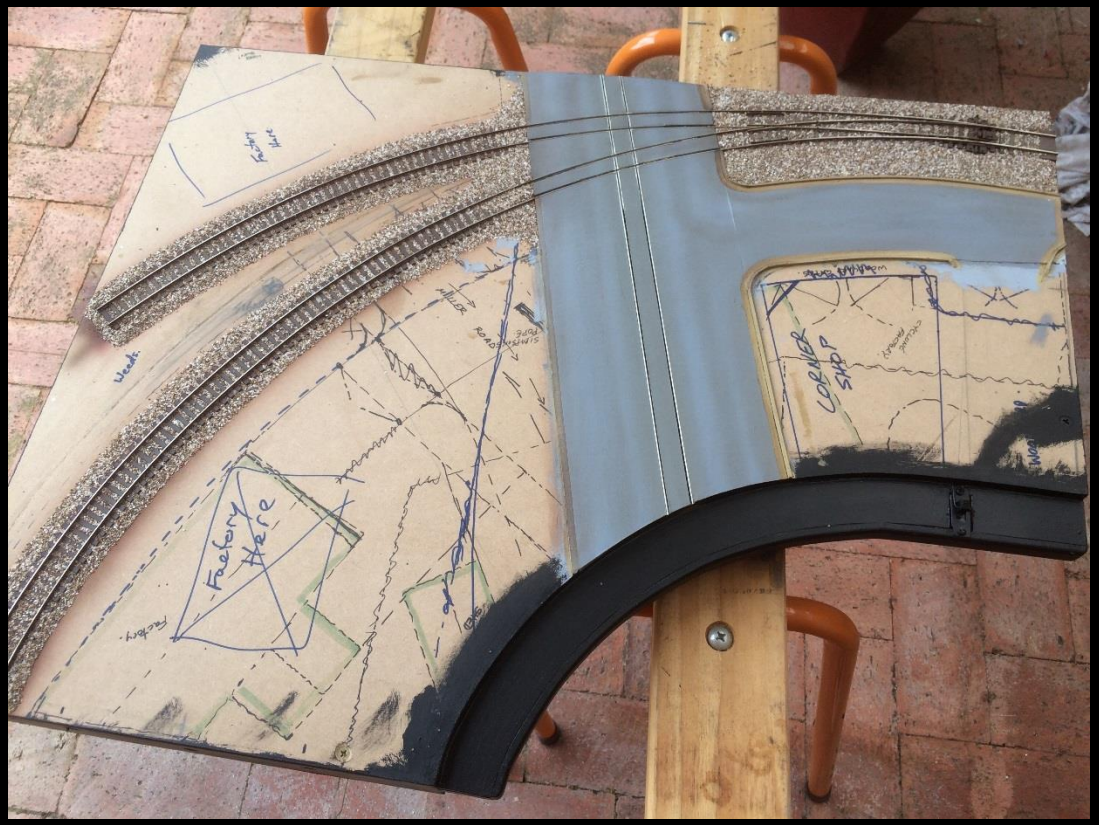
Pelmet lighting using 3mm MDF and pine framing. Pelmets sit on 25mm aluminium tubing.

Originally strip lighting but then added LED fittings.

Port Dock Station
also in HO scale

The third fold away layout built to the identical dimensions as Comm. St.

Comm St./Pt. Dock corner module

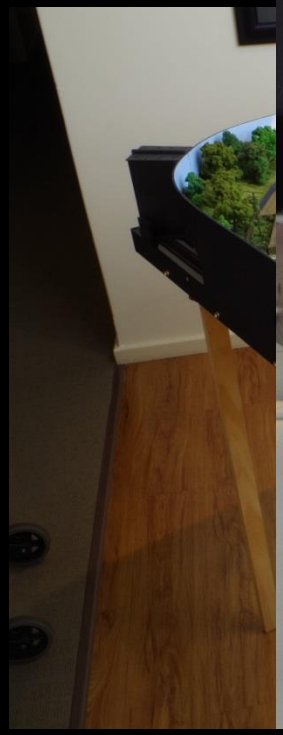


A 90 degree module to join the two layouts together.

Comm St./Pt. Dock corner module

LAMPWICK LANE - “L” shaped layout – an experiment in fold away layouts

LAMPWICK LANE features rear access hidden sidings



LAMPWICK LANE –LMS mid 1930s

Great Moor Street II – early BR period in OO, the fourth Fold Away layout to the same dimensions as the original Great Moor Street.

Great Moor Street II – was the fourth Fold Away layout seen here in storage mode.

GLENCOE WEST – SAR 1950s in HOn3 narrow gauge, built in 2 months

Based on a South Eastern SA forest branchline.

Presented in a chocolate brown it had surprising appeal when set up.

GLECOE WEST

GLECOE WEST – before the fascia profile boards were added.

GLENCOE WEST

Built in two modules with a future third and maybe fourth module. Two modules – again designed to fit in the trailer box

Another consideration - Quick set up and pull down!

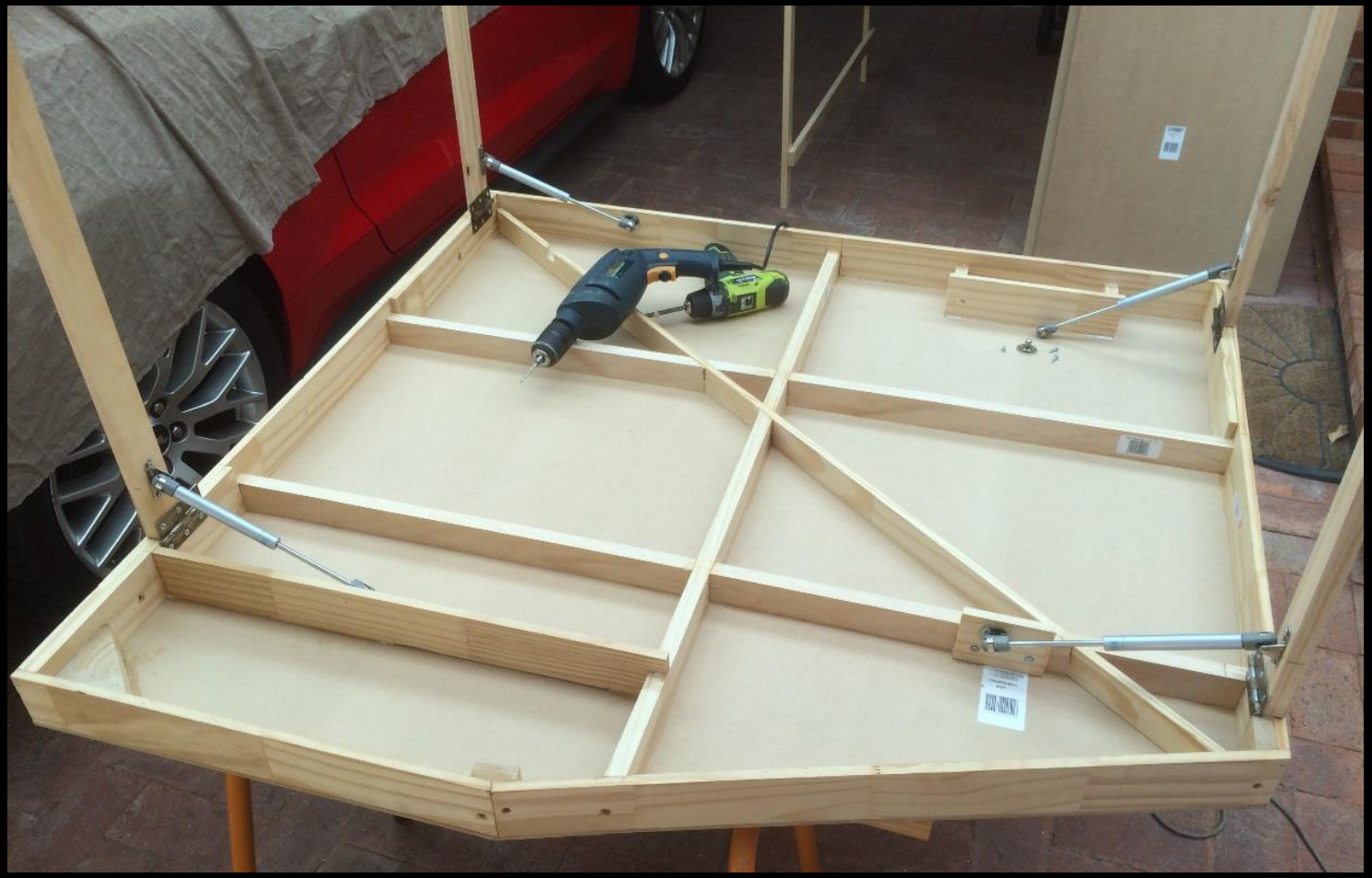
Support legs made using Pine and hinges. Each leg assembly is made to fit INTO the baseboard or fit FLUSH with the framework.

Using Gas Struts, they hold the legs vertical when extended & when collapsed hold the legs closed.

Sometimes the lure of extension can be overpowering! GMS now has another terminus and an engine depot added!

SPIRSBY - LNER

Using the same construction techniques with Gas Strut opening legs



SPIRSBY – LNER in OO scale

SPIRSBY'S five modules were also designed to fit into the trailer box.

The two long modules were made to size to fit side by side in the bottom of the trailer.

Transport of engines and rollingstock

- Aluminium tool cases
- 3mm MDF inserts
- Lined with 6mm foam

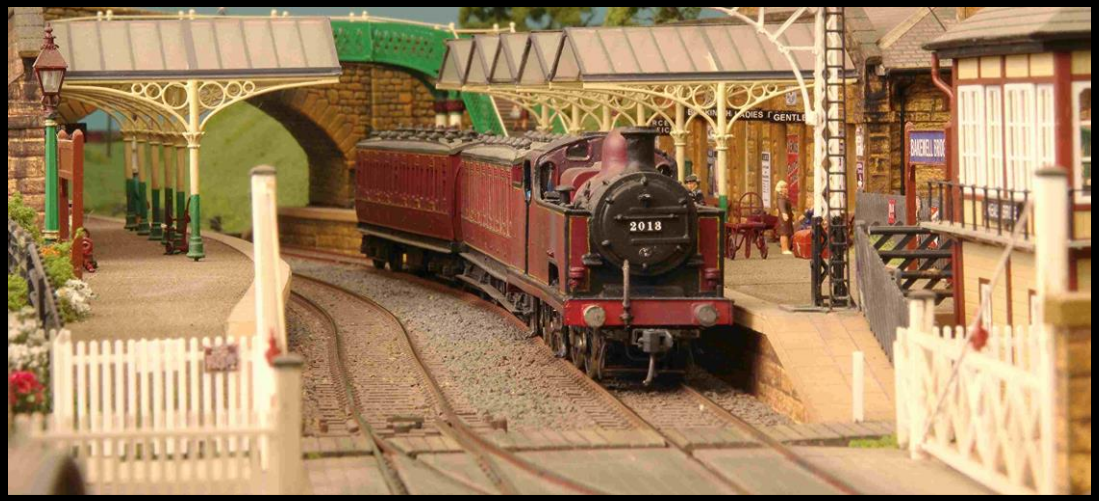
Its an obsession that started in 1974

- Out of the 17 layouts over 48 years, I've built 12 that are portable exhibition style layouts.

One last thing – I've never been afraid to use buildings in half relief at the front of the layout.

EXHIBITING A LAYOUT for me…

- Exhibiting a layout has its benefits
- Sure it's a lot of work to put it all together BUT !
- It's a great way to involve others
- Set up and pull down time is quick with design elements to make it easy.
- I'm a bit of a show off so it's euphoric.




THE END
PLATFORM 1
SUNLIGHT