

Alan Gibson News Letter

Welcome to our Fourth News Letter, the previous News Letters seem to have been well received and it looks like we will be able to produce it on a regular basis. The intention is still to use this News letter to keep customers up to date with the latest things within the business, these will include new products and developments, shows we are attending, kits we have available, etc. For those people who are seeing this news letter for the first time, the previous releases are available from the web site.

New Products

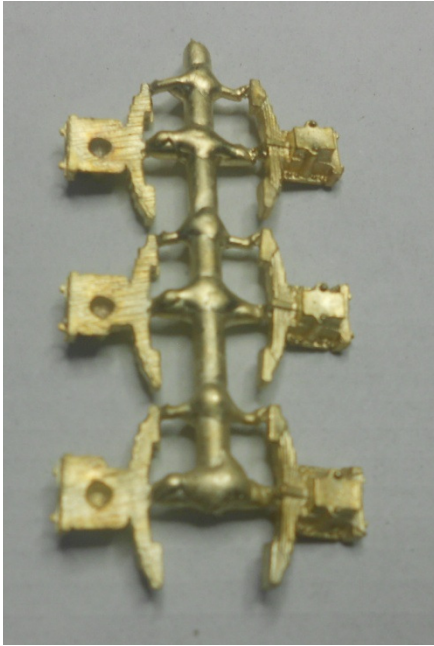
Brass Centred Wheel Kits – We will have some additional ‘new’ brass wheel kits in the range, in either 6’ or 6’2”. They are 4872 – LMS Class 5, 4872L - LTR 4-4-2T, 4872S - LSWR H15, 4872V - LNER B13 Class, 4872W - GWR Hall Class, 4873 – SR K Class, 4874H – Highland Loch Class, 4874V – LNER V2 Class, 4874W - GWR Country 4-6-0.

Conversion Sets – We will produce a conversion for the Bachmann V2, hopefully by Scaleforum, but definitely in the autumn. Also planned for the autumn, depending on Bachmann and Hornby’s release dates are the Bachmann D11/1 and SE&CR C Class and Hornby’s GWR 42XX, 52XX & 72XX.

Castings – We have a couple of new castings in the range and some more reworked / re-mastered castings which will hopefully be viewed as an improvement. News items, we have a pack of brass castings for 4mm LNWR lamp brackets which include both Footplate mounted and Bunker/Tender mounted types. The other one is a whitemetal casting pack to Great Centralise (please forgive the expression) the ROD tender with the Bachmann LNER O4.

Reworked castings include all the tender axleboxes in brass by the lost wax process. The whitemetal versions of these items were spread across different moulds and became difficult to keep in stock for all sorts of reasons; not least some of moulds were quite worn. So we now have crisp new moulds which produce the axleboxes and springs in durable brass making soldering a more realistic method of attaching. We have already done this a while ago with the GE axleboxes and very recently the LMS/Midland (some of which have already gone out through the trade), now we’re adding the rest. Also in the tender department we have produce brass sprues of fittings for the BR and Stanier Tenders with the intention of being to re introduce the Tender Kits, allowing us to just drop a couple of sprues of castings in a bags rather than sorting through trays of white metal castings (more in the kits section).

We have also adjusted some of the casting prices, certain items have stood out as being a little high and others we’ve invested in new moulds where we have increased the cost, but also increased the yield. Therefore we are reducing the cost of certain castings including 4M626, 4M652, 4M717, 4M788, 4M797 & 4M814.



LNWR Tender Axle Boxes



Stanier Tender Axleboxes



Hornby Bullied Parts



LMS/MR Tender Axle Boxes

Buffers – We are also intending to add to our range of cast, sprung buffers. There are two being developed which are GWR 12" head self contained, and GWR Pre 1929 Oval head, square shanked coach buffers with further ones being planned. Unfortunately these are unlikely to be ready for the current group of shows.

Signals – We have been commissioned by someone who builds signals to produce some of our signal etches in 7mm. We have already completed the Bath Green Park LMS Cantilever Gantry with others planned. This particular item is to be available only as an etch, without the channels section included in the 4mm pack. These 7mm signals are unlikely to be stock items (not quite made our minds up yet), but will be available to order.

Catalogue – We are continuing to develop the catalogue. The emphasis is on the online version as we have to think about production costs of the paper version. Having said that we are still producing a few copies of the full version for sale at shows but in the main that will be available the online version. If that doesn't seem to be a particularly clear statement, then that is because it isn't clear in our heads. The Full version will hopefully eventually contain everything we manufacture; the standard version will contain everything we stock.

Over the period of time we've owned the business it has come to be a concern that we don't provide any guidance on how to use our main products, such as Driving wheels, Bogie/Tender Wheels and Rolling stock wheels. It seems to have always been assumed that the modeller will know what to do. This worries us as there must be numerous people who have bought our products and 'not got on with them' just for the want of a little information. We're not seriously considering putting instructions in every packet because if you bought loco and tender wheels for a Pacific you could have nine or ten bits of paper floating about, also, it would add cost to our packing operations. With all this in mind we've added a section to the Online/Full catalogue giving hints and tips for using and looking after our wheels products. If you're one of those people who don't like to be told how to do things, please don't read that section.

RTR Loco Wheel Conversion Packs – There are finescale societies that produce 'How to' sheets for putting finescale wheels on to proprietary Ready to Run Locos. Great, but, we've no control over which ones they produce, who writes them how many photos there are and of what. Our concern is with our products and our business so we're going to produce our own; or rather we've asked Pete Hill to write them for us. Pete, in some circles anyway, is well known for demonstrating conversions and how just about converted everything that can be done. The Bachman 3F is our first one and is now on the web site, just follow the download link on the website, we'd love to do a sheet for every Loco we list, but only time will tell if we get around to it. We will however, cover all the major types Bachmann, Hornby, 3mm, 2.who knows what mm axles, inside/outside valve gear etc.

Upcoming Shows

Our forthcoming shows are-

Scaleforum	Saturday 29 th & Sunday 30 th September, Leatherhead Leisure Centre
Manchester MR Show	Saturday 6 th & Sunday 7 th October 2012 ,Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6ZT
Warley MR Show	Saturday 24 th & Sunday 25 th November 2012, NEC
York MR Show	Saturday 30 th March to Monday 1 st April Knavesmire Stand, York Race Show Course
Scalefour North	Saturday 20 th April and Sunday 21 st April Wakefield College Thornes Park, Wakefield
Expo EM	Saturday 18 th May and Sunday 19 th May Bracknell Leisure Centre
Raillex	Saturday 25 th May and Sunday 26 th May Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury HP21 9PP

Kits

We have been steadily producing kits and kit components. Sometimes by the time we produce a batch of kits some people no longer require them. Whilst this is unfortunate for us, it means we have them in stock for other people to buy. Therefore available to buy now and at the shows listed above are

4mm LNER F7/GE G69

4mm S&D 7F

4mm LMS Jinty

Tender Kits – We hope to have both BR and LMS Stanier Tender kits in stock and available at shows from now on.

We are currently packing

4mm LNER F4/F5 / GE M15

4mm LNER E4 / GE T26

4mm LNER J15

4mm LSWR O2

4mm GWR 850 Pannier

4mm GWR 850 Saddle

4mm GWR '1076' (Buffalo) Pannier

4mm MR/LMS 3F

4mm LMS 2P

4mm GWR '1076' (Buffalo) Saddle

7mm LBSC 54' Bogie Carriages

7mm S&D 7F

7mm LSWR O2

These 150 odd kits are in various stages of completion. Had things gone to plan we would have completed them weeks ago, shipped them to the people who want (still) them and would have known how many, if any, were left over, in order that we could take them to shows and put them on general sale. However, we suffered a slight delay with the lost wax castings and an even longer delay with the etching so we just run out of time before having to make stock for the forthcoming shows. We intend to complete the kits ASAP which may extend to after the Manchester show.

News Letter

If you picked this news letter up from an exhibition you may not be aware that we send them out by email. To stay up to date and receive future editions of this news letter you can subscribe to the email version by sending an email to newsletter@alangibsonworkshpo.com with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject field.

Alan Gibson. PO Box 597, Oldham. OL1 9FQ

Tel 0161 678 1607 Fax 0161 785 8208

website www.alangibsonworkshop.com email sales@alangibsonworkshop.com