



## Gauge '3' 0-4-0 Coal Fired Saddle Tank

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This delightfully compact little engine was made for me recently by Roger Marsh.

Gauge 3 members who attended the last two AGMs will have seen similar engines running on Roger's circular demonstration railway. This model is based on the diminutive engines that ran through the streets of Burton on Trent here in the UK in the early 1900s, hauling beer for the considerable amount of breweries that manufactured there.

They still brew beer there, but with mergers and closures the brewers today can be counted on one hand. Regrettably the eighty miles of tracks and sidings have also gone with the road hauliers taking over. In the railways 'hay day' there were 29 level crossings on the network making it virtually impossible to drive across the town with out being held up by at least one of the crossings.

This model is not only beautifully made but it incorporates many of the features of a larger scale loco making it easy and satisfying to drive. The axle water pump is designed in tandem with the hand pump. This is in the cab and includes an extension for ease of use and can be removed when running. The fire hole door is opened and closed by a spring loaded lever located conveniently outside and underneath of the cab. so no burning of fingers there. Twin drain cocks will push the condensate out of your cylinders when moving off instead of out of the chimney and back on to your rolling stock.

The model also has a clear and easy to view water level sight glass combined with a blow down valve that will clear any air locks which, as we all know, can frustratingly show misreading! Water is held in the saddle tank straddling the boiler (to state the obvious) and is topped up through a lifting flap on top of the boiler in front of the cab. The engine runs well at 30psi and

the safety valve will lift at 40psi. Forward / Reverse is by slip eccentric. Other features include a blower and a displacement lubricator. The engine came in a nice wooden box cleverly designed to enable the engine to be supported up side down for oiling and maintenance without damaging 'top of the engine' infrastructure.

Anyone wishing to see this model running can visit YouTube on:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az VixJjBEUE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzVixJjBEUE)

or just type in main131 on YouTube search

Regrettably these engines are not made on a commercial basis but you never know if you ask Roger nicely!