



Size is not that important Building in 1:22.5 By Mark Thatcher

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My own foray into this scale came about (as I am sure did many of the readership) with an OO gauge train set. But of course I yearned for something bigger, hence G scale or G45. Now it is an entirely natural progression for me to aim for G64, ie. The same scale but mainline gauge. A chance find of a complete layout on eBay rather accelerated my decision to go there. However I have been into this scale (not gauge) for a while now.

Well - it all started in 1996 with my first G scale live steam loco, and now for the last four years I have written articles on buildings & structures for Garden Rail Magazine, and realise now the more I know, the more there is to know.

I also know scale is important – but not that important within reason. You can't scale wood and you can't scale water, but you can scale everything else! And, should you be offended by this comment and your building looks too big – simply stand further away! Seriously I know some OO gauge modelers use N gauge buildings to provide a scaled fall-off back drop to add depth to their scenery – so why shouldn't we do this too?

There are a number of prolific suppliers in the 1:22.5 and 1:19 markets to satisfy the most demanding of needs. Incidentally the scale of 1:19 grew for the 16mm scale modelers who modeled narrow gauge workings on 32mm (not 45mm) tracks. So some suppliers' buildings are a little bigger than others, but you still can use them if you position them further away.

Garden Railway Specialists produce a number of suitable G64 buildings including Caersws station which I have built with some success. The resin mouldings are a bit thin though and in my opinion benefit from a bit of internal cross-bracing. That's not so important unless you want to model the internal detail of the building – in which case the internal cross-bracing you may wish to add for support may well get in the way.

British Outline Buildings do a stonking good range of buildings which are largely bang on for our scale varying from the most diminutive line-side hut to the enormous 'Black Boy Inn' and their 'Lacey Green Windmill', which if you buy the extra motorising pack, actually spins the windmill's sails around at a placid 2rpm per second!



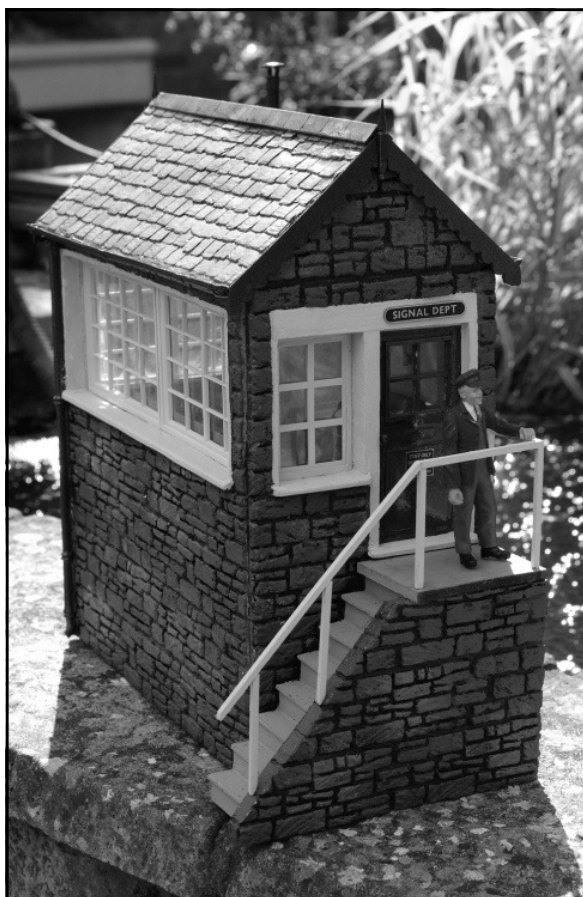
Also in this scale, T&M Models, run by Tricia and Mike Cullen do a lovely range of buildings, either ready to plonk on your line or to build for yourself. Of special interest is their Clapperboard range of station buildings, waiting rooms and signal boxes which are great for the "God's Wonderful Railwayists" like me out there.

Lineside Delights do a similar range of buildings, although these are probably more likely to be finished in grey or red stone, and are more 1:19 than 1:22.5. But their advantage is you could really build up an extensive matched terminus with their kits as they all work synergistically. Also of note are the fantastic signal kits that this company makes, worthy of a main, or small branch line alike.

Likewise Modeltown produce a great range of kits too, from a diminutive signal box to a massive warehouse complex, which I will be incorporating into my own G64 layout in the future.

So whichever manufacturer you choose to buy from, how do you build these kits? Well, if your building is to go outside all-year-round forget Superglue and Araldite as adhesives – you will need

something far more bullet-proof than that as both these adhesives go brittle over the years. I choose to use either a resin fibreglass car body filler, which gives a strong bond but is really nasty to work with, or a less nasty Isopon resin filler, which is a little friendlier on the fingers and eyes! I also have had good success with No More Nails exterior glue (not the interior version though) which bonds and fills in one operation.



I have studiously ignored all instructions to paint each section of the building before I assemble, as of course I am guaranteed to smear body filler over my new paintwork. Rather, once I have built the main structure, I let it cook for a day in our boiler room prior to painting. Before painting I degrease the structure by washing it in warm water with a dissolved dishwasher tablet. This degreasing operation is imperative as during the moulding process traces of release agent remain on the parts of the building, which paint does not stick too. Don't wash your building with washing up liquid either as that contains lanolin which further compounds the issue

as it actually adds more grease!

Once the structure is completely de-greased, I blow over a light coat of either Halfords rust red primer in an aerosol (for darker topcoat colours) or primer grey (for lighter colours). Then for the brick or stone work blow a bit of Halfords Satin black over the whole lot. Then you are ready to bring your building alive by sponging in the colour you desire. Sponging is quick and easy. Firstly visit your local pound shop (where strangely everything does not cost a pound) and buy a bulk load of washing up sponges.

Cut these into 1cm squares and using the soft side of the pad, gently stipple and sponge on the colour of your choice over the building. Use little paint and you will

leave the black and grey undercoat exposed as grouting to the bricks or mortar like a dry stone wall. You don't need to buy expensive paints either. Simply go to B&Q, grab their red and grey swatch test cards and ask them to mix you up 6 tester-pots at a couple of quid each – they will last you forever.

Anyhow, this really is only a brief snapshot of my interest in this absorbing hobby. And as far as scale is concerned, I read in the Viz comic many moons ago "*why buy a telescope – simply move closer to the object you wish to view*". I think they have a point. After all scale is simply a sense of perspective, and with care, this perspective can work in our favour.

Useful Links:

Garden Railway Specialists

www.grsuk.com

British Outline Buildings

www.railsidemodels.co.uk

T&M Models

Visit ebay and search for member 'maldivemike'

Lineside Delights

www.linesidedelights.co.uk/ www.linesidedelights.co.uk/

Modeltown

www.modeltown.co.uk

Pendlebury Model Buildings

<http://www.pendleburymodels.com/>

Jackson's Miniatures

<http://www.jacksonsminiatures.com/railway.html>

