

Toury and its sugar mill

THE MODELLER



Uwe

Uwe Hass collects narrow gauge railway kits in 1/35 scale. And he has built a fine showcase for them!

Texte et illustrations : François Fontana et Uwe Hass

The layout at a glance

Scale: 1/35

16.5mm narrow gauge

Control: analogue

Dimensions: 2.1x 0.5 m

Sugar beet railway based on the Pithiviers – Toury system

Left to the layout: the harbour area. The crane is an unlikely item in such an environment, as in the real world, transshipment was carried out manually. But it's pleasing to see a former Magnard military crane, which used to be fitted to Péchot-Bourdon platforms.

Yes, but – this is actually much more than a simple diorama or a show stand. In view of the many kits he owned, and the regional consistency of the various items of rolling stock, Uwe decided to go a step further. In terms of displaying carefully built, painted and weathered models, he thought it might be worthwhile to build a working diorama which, over time, has morphed into a real layout.

François Fontana: Hallo Uwe, you have here a fine collection of what was originally military rolling stock?

Uwe Hass: Yes, there is plenty of choice when it comes to military equipment in





The Toury sugar mill depot in 1/35 scale. Two locomotors, from two successive wars, are shunting in the yard. In the foreground, a Campagne, under the shed a Billard T 75 D. Both are resin kits from the U-Models range.

1/35 scale. The models available are all from the ranges of two French artisans: U-Models and Blitz-Kit; all of them are based on WWI or WWII prototypes, so I wondered where they might have run afterwards? The answer was found in Eric Fresné's book ('70 ans de chemins de fer betteraviers en France', '70 years of sugar beet railways in France' published by Editions LR Presse): on industrial railways, some of which even re-used the trackbed of WWI military field railways. I opted to model a different sugar beet railway: the Pithiviers to Toury tramway.

FF: Originally, these were static kits?

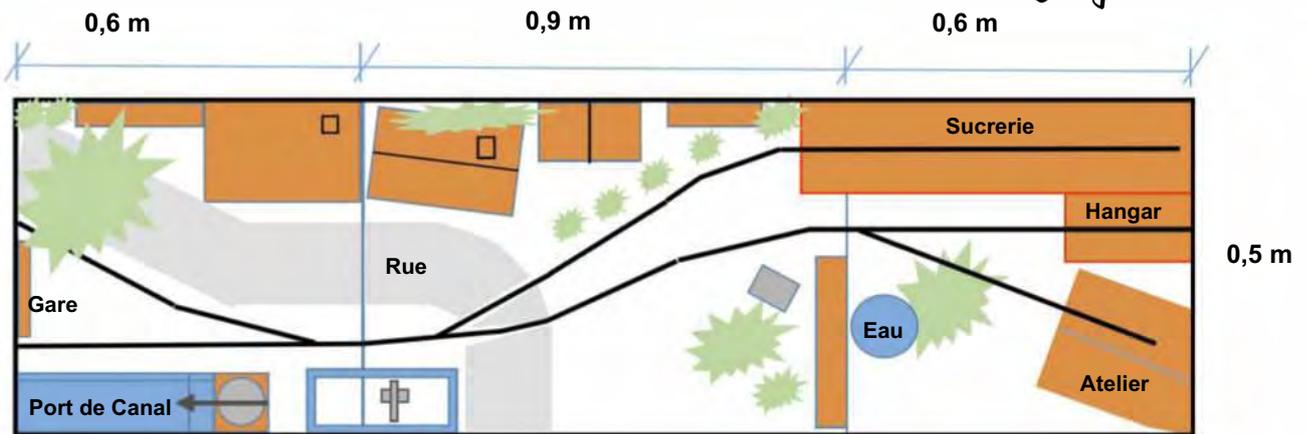
UH: Yes, as is customary in the small world of military modellers, the kits are not motorized, but they are very fine reproductions and feature a great many add-on details. The quality of the outcome will depend on the care taken with assembly, painting and weathering. The models are static, but driving chassis can fairly easily be found to motorize them. ■■■



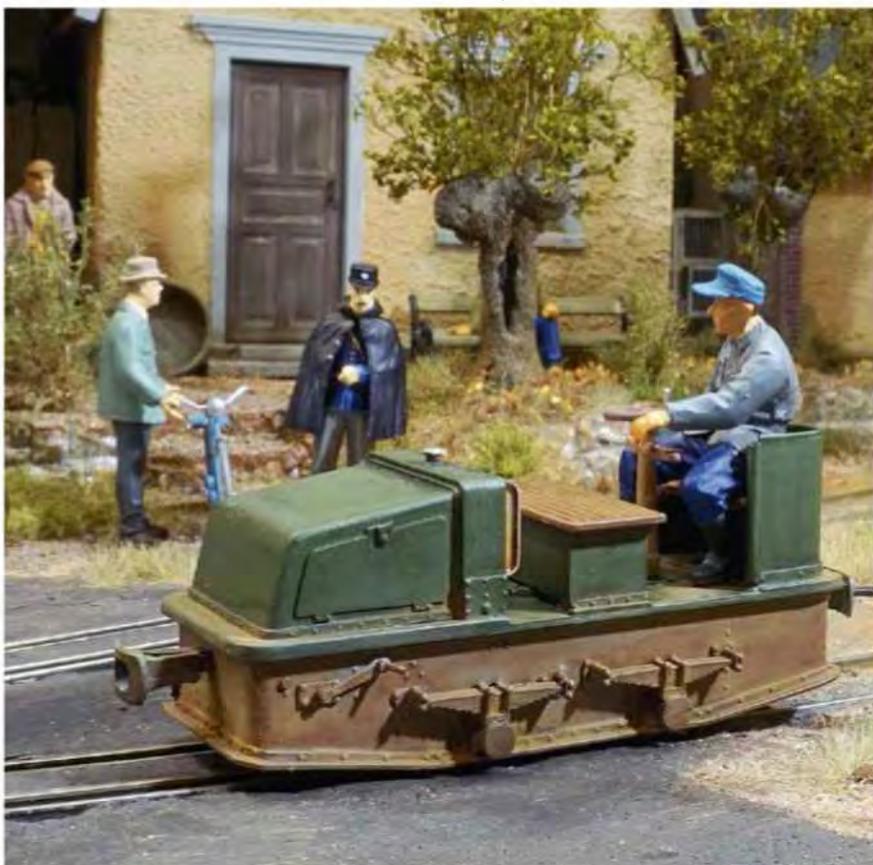
The T 75 D is seen hauling a four-wheeler open wagon through the village.

Sucrierie de Toury – chemins de fer betteraviers en France

*Plan
Layout of the*



The small Campagne tractor trundles through the village on its way to the harbour. This a V-Models resin kit fitted to an H0 scale Sb-Modellbau driving chassis.



... I mainly use the German Sb-Modellbau productions.

FF: And what about wagons?

UH: They are scratchbuilt out of plastic sheet. I used the diagrams published in Eric Fresné's book. The axles and bogies are H0 scale items adapted to 1/35 scale. For example, for the Pershing wagons, I used H0 scale bogies from the Bachmann range. All my stock is fitted with tramway couplers from the Zeunert ZT-Modelbahnen range.

FF: Uwe, what can you tell us about the layout itself?

UH: It is a fairly simple design, on a surface of 2.1 x 0.5m you find three different modules: on the right hand side, the sugar mill, in the middle a village bisected by the track and on the left hand side, the harbour. A kind of synthesis of a sugar beet railway, from the production plant to the shipment of the product. There are only three turnouts; from the fields, the trains are reversed into the factory and on the same principle, the wagons are reversed towards the harbour sidings.

The layout has an analogue controller. The turnouts are operated by rods concealed in the cemetery graves and in a tree!

The fiddleyard ensures some variety in operations: three trains, each with two or three wagons, run in turn. Visitors always

seem surprised to see so much stock and so many possibilities on such a small layout.

FF: And how did you proceed for the scenery?

UW: I used buildings from the MiniArt range. Either complete ones for the houses in the village, or by using just a few parts to build the large factory, for example. I also built several using large plastic sheets and many types of strips, as well as sheets of Styrofoam. The structures are then carefully painted with acrylics, before being weathered using various techniques and many very fine pastel-based products. The figures are from the MiniArt and MK35 ranges. ■



Uwe Haas

A steam locomotive, and a Baldwin 4-6-0 T at that! This is the Scale Link model.

The factory closes off the perspective on the right hand side of the layout, concealing one of the access points to the fiddleyard. The other one is the track that runs alongside the factory, passing between the latter and the small depot. The Baldwin WWI locotractor is a U-Models resin kit.

Bibliography



Éric Fresné's book, "70 ans de chemins de fer betteraviers en France", will soon be re-published by Editions LR Presse.

