Portable Track

- Lynn Zelmer  e-mail: lynn@zelmeroz.com

Portable Track: Presentation

- Photos from the canefields (Qld, Fiji, Java, HI)
- Trackwork types/range/specifications
- Acknowledgements, thanks, etc.

Main haulage & feeder tracks...

- On estate work it is general to use a permanent line with heavy rails for the main haulage and light temporary lines in the cutting fields as feeder tracks. The latter are moved forward as cutting proceeds and are simply laid on the ground without any ballasting. The wagons are loaded on these temporary lines and afterwards transferred to the main line. [R Hudson Ltd cat 36035]
Java 2008...

Hudson BS Portable Railways

- #1: 10 lbs rails. Sleepers, standard clipbolt type, 33” long, spaced 1610/mile (1000/km), 24” rail gauge. Max load 36 cwt (4032 lbs) on 4 wheels; traction by hand, slow speeds.
- #3 (Standard): 14 lbs rails, 24” gauge, light traffic—animals or small tractors @4 mph.
- #6 (Standard): 20 lbs rails, 24” gauge, light locos, 8 mph (may need extra sleepers).

Hudson BS Portable Track

- Other types of Hudson BS sleeper (eg riveted) and fishplate joint more expensive
- Other companies had different ‘standards’

Similar if not Hudson (Java)
Gregg (USA) Portable Track

Any length, gauge, sleepers...

CSR BHP 14 lb rail

- 16' 6"
- 6 sleepers
- 24” gauge
- Riveted
- Sole & fish plates

Hudson BS turnouts

- British Standard: other products included three way turnouts, crossings, turntables & heavier duty components for permanent way.
Permanent way to field lines...

Mule power, 1910...

Misc...

Almost certainly portable track...
Post-steam power c 1925...

Straddling the track...

Track?

Yes, there is track!
Current track often overgrown too!

Java: longitudinal trucks

Track bolted together (fishplates)!

Incline & straight section
Curved incline or ??

Incline or riding points?

Conforming to terrain...

...
...and butt ends...

Late 1980s Fiji...

...

South Johnstone Mill, 2003
Java: standard sections

Portable track & cattle grids

Fiji: Tavua Depot

Tavua Depot
HOon30 portable track sections...

- 18' nickel silver rail
- 4' scale styrene 8 x 2

O-14 (7mm scale) BS track

- Roy C Link models
- Injection molded styrene sleepers
- 15' or 18' lengths
- Code 55-82 track
- Sleepers evenly spaced

...using HOon30 cardstock jig

CSR/BHP rescaled for On30

- 14 lb rail 14' 6” long bolted to sleepers spaced 9.5”, 2’ 10”, 3’ 3” from each end & extending slightly outside rail; alternate sole/fish plates
O-14 and On30 modelled

Acknowledgements

- Numerous authors, researchers, railfans, photographers & draftsmen
- Historical materials, including original, reprinted and [online] scanned catalogues
- Narrow Gauge Convention—the opportunity and the audience
- Happy Modelling!

Further information

- www.zelmeroz.com/CaneSIG
- QldRailHeritage.com/mrqc
- NGDU #36: January 2010
- LRRSA Light Railways: forthcoming
- Manufacturer’s catalogues, archives, etc.

Many thanks...

- Without an audience there wouldn’t be a convention
- Happy modelling, regardless of your scale, gauge, era
- lynn@zelmeroz.com: qldrailheritage.com/mrqc, www.zelmeroz.com/canesig