

volume 39 - No. 5

September / October 2022



the

# MainLine

magazine

the official journal of the

National Model Railroad Association Incorporated  
Australasian Region



# Trackside With The SM

## What is That?

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Watching trains running pass on the network is something I enjoy. Have you stood on a platform or by the side of the track and watched a train run pass you? From time to time a load catches your eye and you don't have a clue what it is, you may say to yourself or your mates there with you "What is That"?



85 ton Gladstone Power House boiler. Photo by Peter Kennedy

By asking questions you may find out what it is, on the other hand, you may never find the answer. Having a similar load on one of your wagons on your layout will sure create a question or two and create a bit of discussion.

At a recent local gathering a mate pulled out of this pocket this item and indicated it would make a good load. The first question from some of the guys was "What is That". Some know that it was a blow tube used on a breathalyser

unit used at RBT's. Due to covid, the testing officer returned the tube to the driver to



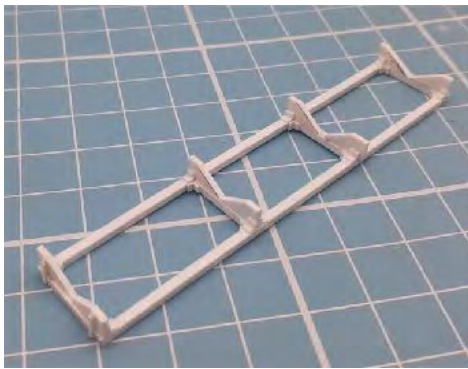
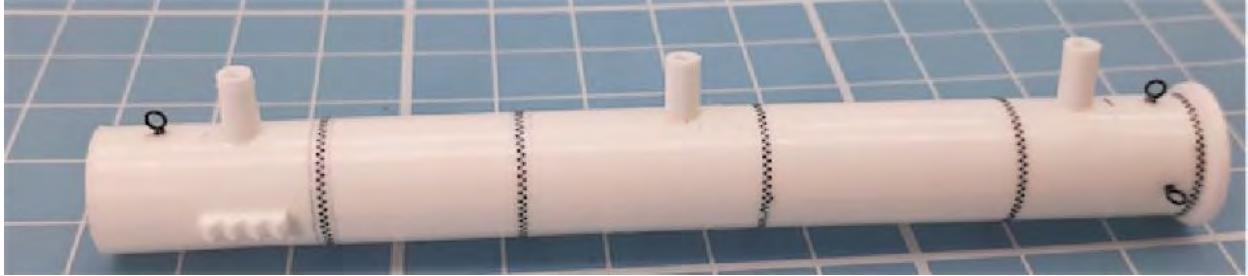
dispose of. A few weeks later I visited a layout and there was train with three flat cars carrying these tubes as a load.

The tube had been painted and secured to the wagon with blu-tack.



Modellers are good at turning trash into gold and saving a few dollars to boot. I had a few of these devises left over from a project at work thinking one day they could be used on the layout.

With the following load the whole tube was used, rivets decals were added along with additional pipe fittings and a few lifting ring fittings.



A cradle was made using styrene to make transportation a little easier between modes of transport from the manufactures to the job site.

A suitable wagon was required, so one was built from styrene.



Everything was painted and a new load was added to the layout.

The web straps to secure the load to the cradle were made by cutting thin strips from a plastic shopping bag. The prototype wagon is fitted with chain and was used to secure the load and cradle. The chain used is 12" - 40 Links per inch, a couple of suppliers manufactures the product, I used A-Line # 29219.

A similar item of machinery could be manufactured from styrene tube to suit any scale. A few Evergreen styrene tubes sizes can fit inside of each other to form a flange on the end.



If you have a number of these tubes other load types can be made. One end of the tube has a flange like a concrete culvert pipe. A number were cut up to fit length ways down the wagon and painted a concrete colour.



A section of the other end of the tube was cut so the pipes would fit across the wagon floor, again they were painted in a concrete colour.



This load was made using Evergreen styrene tube cut to length and painted. If there is a gap between the end of the wagon and the load it must be filled. Movement in the load up and down the wagon floor will damage the load and could make the wagon unstable on the tracks causing a derailment. Pallets or old car/truck tyres used to stop this movement. I often use wheels off my old matchbox toys that have seen better days. Loads within the doors on an open wagon do not require securing.

Trust it give you some inspiration for your railway/railroad.....