

Arthur Hayes: People

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## New Articles

<b>6</b>	<p><b>Trackside with the SM - “People”</b>                  Have you ever noticed how miniature People can add realism to a scene on a layout? In his third instalment of the ‘Trackside With The SM’ series, Arthur Hayes - MMR outlines how he has added that next step in realism on his South Western Railway layout and describes in detail how you can add people to scenes on your layout to achieve a better scene.  <i>by Arthur Hayes - MMR</i></p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Quill-able Whistle / Horn</b>                  In the steam era days, the crew of a loco could make the whistle play up and down by using the cord to manipulate the valve admitting steam to the whistle. This effect is available on some sound decoders and Eric Bennett outlines how to set up and achieve this effect.  <i>by Eric Bennett</i></p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>Repair of Failing Contacts in Tortoise Switch Machines</b>                  These switch machines are normally very reliable for switching turnouts on your layout, but if one of the contacts fail it is an expensive item to replace. Malcome Jenkins shows us an easy and inexpensive method for repairing the contacts in these switch machines.  <i>by Malcome Jenkins</i></p>
<b>17</b>	<p><b>How BEMF is used in Controlling our Locomotives</b>                  For the technically minded, Stephen Reeves provides a further explanation on how Back EMF (bemf) is used to control the DC (<i>direct current</i>) motors used in model locomotives, irrespective of whether they are DC or DCC (<i>digital command control</i>) locomotives.  <i>by Stephen Reeves</i></p>

## Regular Features

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### the Cover Photo

A railway employee trackside on Arthur Hayes South Western Railway layout, adds interest and realism to a trackside scene.

# Trackside with the SM

## “People”

by Arthur Hayes - MMR

People can tell a story and add realism to your layout. They add value to the scene, just as we engross ourselves in our day to day activities. It could be at work or in leisure at home, maybe in the park with the family. All can be added to our layouts to make it look real.



Mostly, figures we purchase from the hobby shop are moulded plastic and don't move. This is OK for a platform scene **1** with passengers waiting for their train. Some could be seated, others standing, some with children, others with bags etc.

And of course we have the railway employees going about their duties assisting passengers with their bags and loading baggage cars **2**. There is no action, but the people set the scene; a

train is coming and people are travelling. We can look for figures with action in their posture, like someone holding a bottle to their mouth as if they are drinking. Seeing this we think movement although there is no movement. Looking around it is possible to find figures in various positions or using tools.



Or a tool could be added to indicate work is taking place. Our platform porter on the platform could be given a broom and be placed near a rubbish bin. Some manufactures provide unpainted figurines that allow you the attach arms to any position.

Figurines we see in hobby shops are mainly manufactured off shore, many have heavy winter clothing or the uniform is of an overseas railroad/railway or service. The era you are modelling can influence dress standards and colours. Looking back at my local railway in the 1960's, the railway department provide trousers, vest, coats and a choice of headgear subject to classification, employees provided their own shirts, socks and

shoes/boots. As a general rule if rail workers are not supplied with a uniform, red and green clothing is not allowed near the tracks. These colours are used to control the movement of trains and could be misread by approaching train crews. In later years, a full uniform was provided. Over time the provided uniform changed in colour and style. I model my local prototype, purchasing railway workers is not possible. I am sure I'm not the only modeller with that issue.

To set the scene I may need to alter or modify what's available. Clothing can be altered using a hobby blade by cutting unwanted items off, scrapping the blade across the figure can alter the shape of clothing or limbs. At times, limbs are removed, altered and reattached to the required position. Filler maybe required to fill the gaps, this may also require some shaping with a fine file. Given most of our figures are viewed from a distance, repainting in the required colours may set the scene for you.



For this I mount the figure on a used cotton reel using double sided tape **3**, this allows me to rotate the figure to various angles without handling it. I can also rest the edge of the reel on the bench to steady hand shake. As various colours maybe applied to

any one figure, drying time is required between the colours, having the figure on a cotton reel make it easy to set aside and pick up when required. I prefer to paint in batches, this allows mixing of colours between tops and bottoms, shoes, hair etc.

Of late I have been using Acrylic (water base) Vallejo paints in 17 ml eye dropper plastic bottles **4**. Shopping around they can be picked up for around \$ 5.00 each. Check out the war gamer suppliers, they usually have a full range of colours. More and more hobby shops are now stocking the range. A couple of drops goes a long way and the paint dries quickly allowing for another colour. Vallejo have a large range of colours that can be mixed together.



To assist stirring the paint, a small stainless nut or ball bearing can be added to the bottle. I stir my paint using a cordless drill **5**, a chair leg rubber cap **6** mounted onto a metal thread screw is inserted into the chuck. The paint bottle fits into the cup, the speed of the drill can be controlled in both directions.

The cap can be removed and a bamboo skewer can be used as a stirrer if so desired for paint that has not been used for some time. A drop or two can be placed on a piece of styrene off cut for a palette. I find keeping the brush moist works best, wet the brush in



cleaning fluid as below and remove excess fluid from the brush. Only add paint to the tip of the brush, this help to extend the life of the brush. Regularly cleaning of the brush prevents build-up of paint in the bristles. A selection of fine pointed brushes allows you to apply paint to the various parts of the figure. For H0 scale I mainly use 10/0, 5/0 and 0 fine pointed brushes.

Care is required in cleaning the brush **7**, I rotate it on the side of the container containing cleaning fluid and remove excess fluid by rotating the brush in paper towel. Dabbing the brush on the bottom of the cleaning container will surely wreck your brush quickly. At the end of the day the brush is washed out rotating it on a cake of soap, this helps in keeping the point on the brush. A magnifying headset/visor is a great help to enlarge the area you are working on. For thinning of paint I mainly use the paint manufactures thinners. Cleaning fluid I make my own, distilled water (tank water), a drop or two of windscreen washer fluid with a couple of drops of Isopropyl.



If you have a fashion policeman living in your house and you are like me, always in trouble for not mixing and matching colours correctly, these combinations have been given to me as a guide to help me when adding people to the layout, you might find them helpful as I do. Blue/Tan, Blue/Grey, Red/Grey, Yellow/Brown, Tan/Blue Jeans, White/Green, Blue/Black, Dark Blue/Light Blue, Green/ Brown. A few years ago Blue/ Green were never to be scene together, but today I understand it's OK. I'm sure on the internet, Mr Google will assist with colours that were in fashion for your era.

I indicated before about employees you could have working on your railroad/railway and their uniforms. Many could be wearing hats and other head gear. Likewise many



Aussies may also be wearing hats or helmets **8**. These can be easily made from styrene, a strip of .005 thou and a leather punch near the correct size can make a rim. The crown can be formed from styrene to the shape and size needed. The head can be trimmed back with a file or cut to allow the hat to sit as needed. Fine detail like a belt or a small badge can be added using a lace pin purchased from Spotlight or similar retailers. The point is flatten a little with a file, dip the end of the pin into a drop of paint and draw the pin along where you need the line. The same method is used to add eyes. Practice a few times on a scrap piece of styrene to work out the required amount of paint that is required for what you are looking for. Small

diameter brass rod can be used as well. Once happy with your masterpiece, a weak black wash can be applied to highlight the various features. This can be achieved by using a drop of paint, thinner to consistency required.



People in and around structures can tell a story **9**, mowing the lawn, children riding a scooter or playing with a ball adds action. A quick coat of paint can make them unique to your layout. The era you model can inspire you to something to enforce the set period. There is a good chance that a gate house at a level crossing in the country during the 1950's had a wood stove, someone chopping wood or working in the garden in the back yard **10** show living standards around that time. This all adds interest to your layout and becomes a talking point in inflection of the past.

Adding passengers to your carriages **11, 12 & 13** will lift them to the next level, do one the rest of your carriage fleet will look out of place with empty windows. Unpainted seated passengers can be found on eBay for just a few dollars. We add engine crew to our locomotives, what about the back of the train.



I bet when you were a kid, you wanted to ride on the end veranda. Make it happen on your layout.

Figurines are often included in vehicles/tractors. If these vehicles are being used for a wagon/car load, the driver would be out of place sitting at the steering wheel. These sitting figures in **14** could be used to make a sitting scene, a small piece of thin styrene can be placed between hands as a newspaper.

Action has been added to this scene in **15** where the track worker doing inspections (Road Runner) was stopped for lunch and waits for a train to pass. Nothing like a cup of billy tea in the bush, the billy fire is a battery tea light available from the cheap shops for just a few dollars. Make sure you purchase the warm white lights, they also



come with various changing colours. The LED is removed carefully from the light body,

add a 1K resistor and hook the LED into your 12 volt lighting bus. The LED can be painted red/orange and using twigs for the yard and a bit of black paint, build the fire around the LED mounted on the layout. Much the same can be achieved for a drum fire, stove or copper in the back yard.



Animated figures can be purchased to provide action to a scene, some may come

with sound. These can also be altered to reflect other applications. Greeting card message recorders can be purchased separate for a few dollars, endless sounds of just about anything can be found on the internet, these can be added to the recorder quite easy.

This wharf scene **16** on Bob Harding Mosquito Creek layout is completed with unloading crew at work, the captain is on the bridge as the supervisor, a winch-man on the winch and three swingmen, one on the ship and two on the wharf are controlling the load of pipes as it moves off the ship. This shows action and completes the scene.

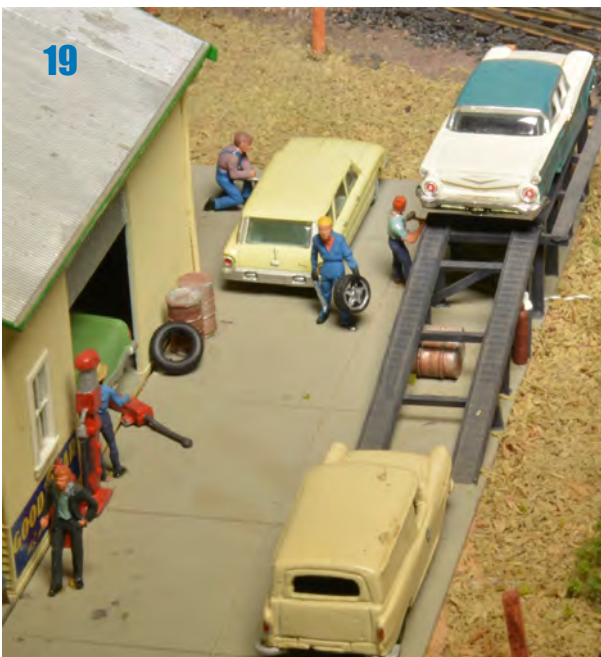


If adding a group or numbers of people into a scene, odd number look better **17** and draws you attention to the scene.

Adding a coal man to the coal stage **18** give that “at work” look.



Woodlands Scenics and Noch have motor (auto) mechanics as in this scene **19** straight from the box.



Presier have a different set of mechanics.

Figures of this nature can be at home for any prototype modelled.

A Signalman hanging out the window of the signal cabin **20** indicates the cabin is cut in and is controlling train moves within the yard or station. This signalman has his hand out giving an “all clear” signal for the next move, or it could be an acknowledge to a passing train entering the yard.



I’m sure as a kid you would be in trouble for swinging on the Hill’s hoist **21** if found in the action. Why not make it happen on your layout. The Hill’s hoist was scratch build and the clothing are Bar Mill’s etch brass kit.

“How’s That”? A family fun day in the park



and a game of cricket **22**. Not all areas of the layout are suitable for structures, an open area beside the tracks allows for viewing of the train moving across the country side.

Likewise, animals can add to a scene in the same way. As with the figures, they can be purchased ready to go or unpainted. With 3D printers some manufactures are producing many Australian animals as well. Once again, with your paint brush these can be changed to



suit you and the scene you are creating.

This scene on Bob Harding layout Mosquito Creek **23** captures wildlife around a creek. The bird life are from the Mini-Print (Canada) 3D range.

Adding figures to a scene can recreate history, many of us are era modellers, and things we did and saw as a kid make a great scene and a talking point on the layout. Figures complete the scene and give the layout life as if something is going on.....