



TRAIN TALK

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ZZ Carriage End Railings. ²⁵

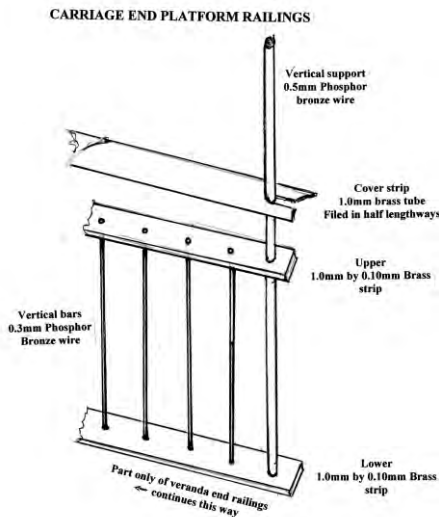
Les Downey.

Veranda ended passenger cars are great, easy to access, great views from the veranda and plenty of fresh air, or smoke if you're travelling behind a steam locomotive.



Model wise I'm rather partial to them as well, until I come to model the veranda railings which often take as much time to make as all the rest of the carriage.

Former Queensland Railways carriage number 828 which is now at the ARHS Rosewood Railway has interested me for some years and I finally decided to do something about building a model of it.



The veranda end railings on 828 are a bit different to a lot of the fancy ones on many of the QR carriages but are interesting in that the top horizontal bar has a rounded upper surface on it.

I could have drilled a flat strip for the vertical bars and then rounded off the corners to give a curved top but that didn't promise me a nice clean smooth top line so I came up with the arrangement in the accompanying sketch.

I soldered two 1.0mm by 0.10mm strips of brass together, marked out the vertical bar spacings, centre popped the hole positions, and drilled each one right through with a 0.3mm drill.

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After separating and cleaning up the two strips I placed lengths of 0.3mm Brass wire through the holes in the strips using a suitable sized strip of wood as a spacer to get the top and bottom strips parallel.

I haven't given dimensions for spacings as they will depend on the carriage you are building.

The two outer wires are 0.5mm Phosphor Bronze wire which is stiffer than the brass and has to be long enough to reach to the underside of the carriage roof. Always best to make them a little longer and trim them on completion..

Prior to soldering the wires in place it is important to ensure they are at right angles to the strips but this is easily accomplished with a small engineers square or other known right angled gauge.



The soldered up unit is reasonably robust but needs checking to ensure all the bars are parallel in all directions.

Laying the assembly on a flat surface enables you to carefully file away the extra width of the upper and lower strips. They need to be about 0.6 or 0.7mm wide when finished, but not so wide that the upper one doesn't fit up into the top cover strip.

The top cover strip is a piece of 1.0mm by 0.20mm round tube filed in half lengthways.



The top cover protrudes just a shade past the 0.5mm vertical support wires on each side and the holes for the 0.5 wires are slotted towards the outer ends. This allows for a small amount of adjustment so the 0.5 wires don't belly in or out at the top cover position.

Needless to say a minimum of solder on each position, just sufficient to secure the joints without great fillets of solder everywhere.

A bit of a fiddly job but I'm sure you'll agree the results are worth while.

Yet to do are the veranda gates and the sunshades over the windows. Oh and that brake hose needs to go in the hole in the headstock.

