

Some Aids to Hornby Realism

WE all know that miniature railways are fun, and there is no excitement like that of running our first train. For a while we are content with that. Soon we get more ambitious ideas, because we realise that having a railway does not mean just running a train or two now and again without any real idea behind it.

This is where the development of the railway and the use of the extra items known generally as Accessories comes in. We had a word or two about several Hornby Accessories last month, including the always popular and very necessary Buffer Stop, Water Tank, Goods Platform and so on. The mere addition of Accessories such as these improves a layout almost out of all recognition, for it converts what is simply a plain track into something that looks more like a railway. But the result may be disappointing if we do not take special care to pick the sites for the different items that we are going to add to the track so that there really appears to be a reason for their being where they are.

Quite often therefore Hornby railway owners develop schemes, not only involving the use of various Accessories, but for the improvement of their setting as well. As an example let us take a look at the picture on this page. Here a Level Crossing has been added to the track and such a move in

The stopping train on this Hornby railway wends its way past a Level Crossing. Dinky Toys figures and vehicles help the effect considerably.

itself is always a step forward. It is however always possible to do better and so we extend the protection afforded by the crossing gates by adding fencing alongside the track. Fencing is quite easily made at home either from wood strip or even card and there is plenty of variety in the types of fencing we can follow, and in the methods we adopt to reproduce them for our own layout. A railway ought to be fenced anyway, and where this is done the miniature railway property is accurately defined.

Another thought prompted by the Level Crossing is that there should be a road or at least some sort of track leading to it. So between the "fields" forming part of the lineside here we find a stretch of plain baseboard that gives the effect of a roadway. The Dinky people who use this crossing are lucky, for there is a Signal Cabin

near by and the crossing gates are therefore operated by the signalman. This ensures that miniature pedestrians and of course Dinky Toys lorries will have safe passage across the line.

Finally, the edge of the layout is finished off with a low wall, which is better than leaving the edge of the baseboard to look after itself. The wall does suggest that there is something beyond and leaves the rest to the imagination. Such walls are easy to make of thin wood or even good

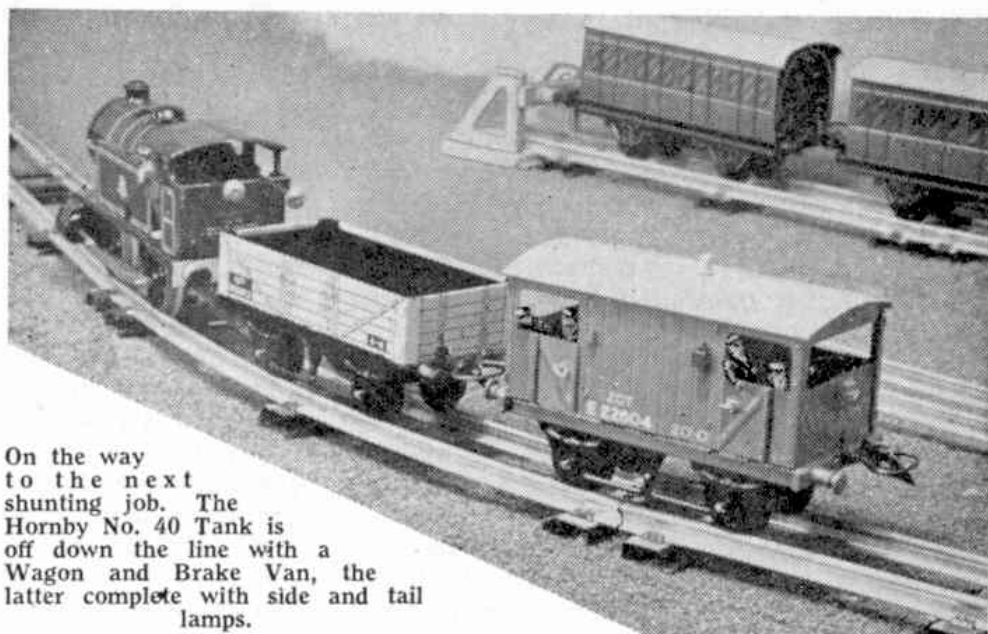
thick card, the necessary details being either painted on or applied by means of the numerous brick- or stone-type building papers that can be obtained nowadays at many hobby shops.

The wall idea appears again in the station scene illustrated on this page. Here there is a well developed idea for using the standard Hornby Station as the basis of a terminus. Layouts with a terminus have much to commend them, but unfortunately in these days the difficulty is the lack of space that prevents Hornby train owners from following up such ideas. Sometimes of course a non-permanent layout consisting simply of a terminal station, its sidings and so on will be arranged by a Hornby train

owner, either as a change from the usual continuous running or to stage a scene of typical terminal station activity in which Trains, Accessories, miniature figures and other items can all play their parts.

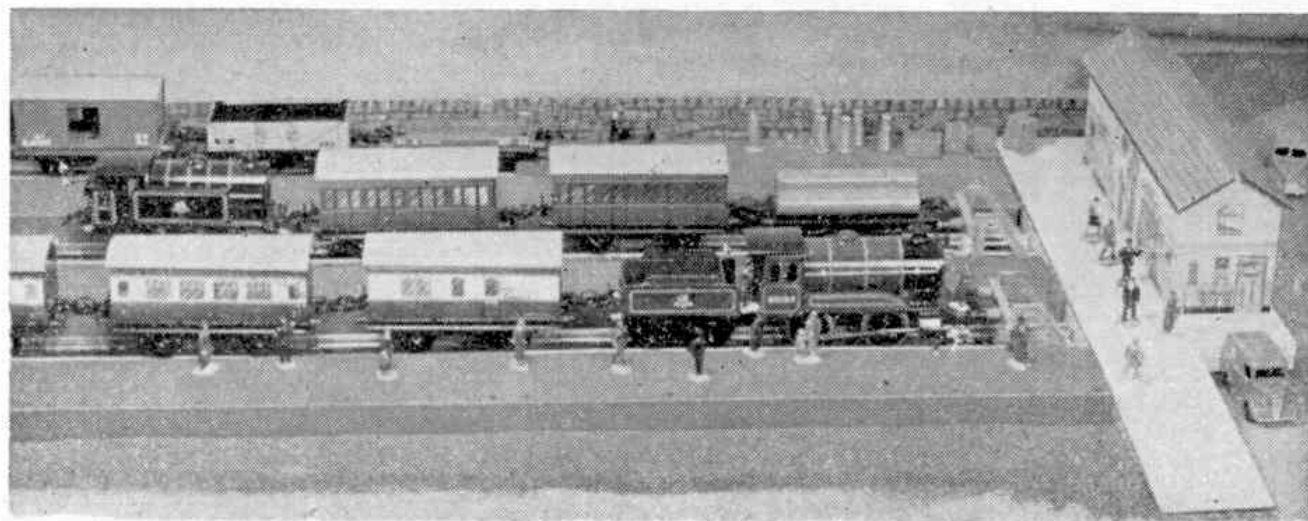
This in fact is the situation in the illustration. The main platform and building of the standard Hornby No. 3 Station being set down to form the "concourse" or circulating area of a terminus, the actual platforms for the

trains project at right angles; and these platforms can be made of suitable lengths of wood or, once again, built up from card. We note from our correspondence that many Hornby railway owners are adept at this type of construction, so here is a chance for them to make some simple, but very effective, pieces.



On the way to the next shunting job. The Hornby No. 40 Tank is off down the line with a Wagon and Brake Van, the latter complete with side and tail lamps.

You will notice that the far platform next to the boundary wall has a bay let into it that is shorter than the other roads. This is quite an idea where there is sufficient space for this sort of thing. This bay is particularly well adapted to the end loading of the rail vehicles, such as is necessary with certain types of traffic, the familiar Flat Truck being a specially useful rail vehicle for this purpose. Such bays can be found at most big stations.



An attractive terminal station arranged by means of lengths of home-made platform added to the standard Station. Such schemes are good fun to arrange and they do make possible some realistic effects.