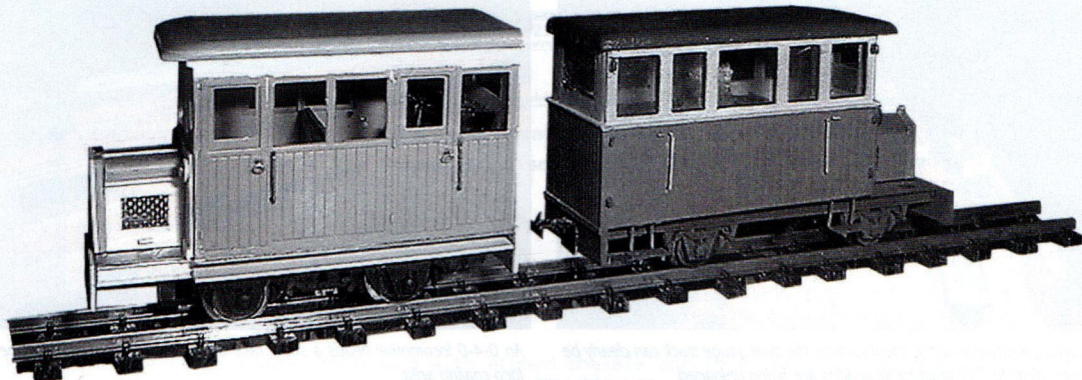


Taking the Bus

Reinier Hendriksen builds a new pair of railbuses for the journey to Moors End



The Parkside Dundas DM68 based railbus (left) and the German draisine based railbus (right).

[Photographs: Reinier Hendriksen]

Small steam engines, petrol and diesel engines and railbuses are favourite vehicles on my freelance Ding Dong Moor Light Railway. There was a pair of railbuses on this railway: modified Keilkraft London B-type buses, but they got to look a bit too heavy and I decided to replace them with a pair of more elegant type of railbuses. I built two railbuses of a different style but they fit together well.

A former German draisine became a railbus

One day Ted Polet gave me a resin kit of a German draisine, it looked like a little box with windows, a roof and some small details. On his turn Ted got the kit from a German friend and both had no idea what to do with it and so the kit ended on my desk.

I thought I could make a part of a railbus out of it. I started to glue V-groove sheet around the box (Evergreen), used T-shaped door handles (Roxey) and made handrails of thin wire. The front window was divided in two part and the back window was made smaller. The roof was made from two layers of 1mm styrene and the sides were rounded. Tissue paper was glued onto the roof so the roof looked like it was made from fabric. A driver's seat and benches were fitted inside.

The hood and radiator came from an incomplete pre war tractor and the headlights were found in the scrapbox. Then came the chassis: I used a second hand Fleischmann (or similar) 'N' scale chassis. Steps - thin wire soldered against a small piece of brass - and an exhaust pipe got a place at

the underside of the chassis.

The chassis of the bus was painted almost black, the sides green and cream and the roof dark grey. The whole thing was weathered by spraying a thin mist of Flat Earth (Tamiya XF-52). After drying, some rust coloured pastel had been brushed onto the bus to highlight the details.

If his fellow railbus is not ready, the unmotorized railbus can be coupled to a small van (which hides a Kof chassis!)

Using the Parkside Dundas DM68 sides.

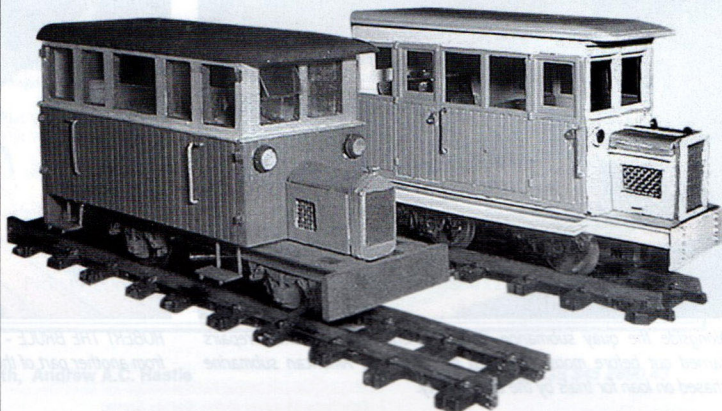
These sides formed the basis the second railbus. I bought two pair of Parkside Dundas DM68 sides at ExpoNG a few years ago. They were sold as separate items. The sides were shortened by simply cutting off one of the doors. The typical louvres above the doors were cut away too and replaced by U-shaped strips. Front and

back sides were made of a sort of laminate consisting of V-groove material and plastic strips for the windows. Again two layers of 1mm styrene were used for the roof. The hood and radiator are pieces of styrene.

Then it became time for the chassis. An O-6-0 Trix chassis was at hand. I removed the middle axle but I needed the gear to couple the front and rear axle. I could not separate the wheel and the gear so the only solution was using a saw.

You can take off the other wheel but you need the small nylon bearing to keep the gear and axle in place. The cabin, hood and radiator were placed on a 0.25mm piece of brass. For the opening for the motor and electrical contacts I used a piercing saw. Beware though to make sure that the chassis does not give a short circuit from the pickups through the brass floor.

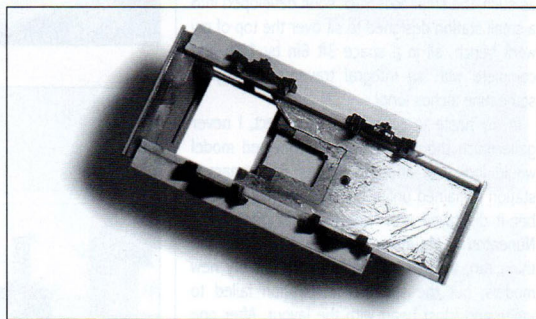
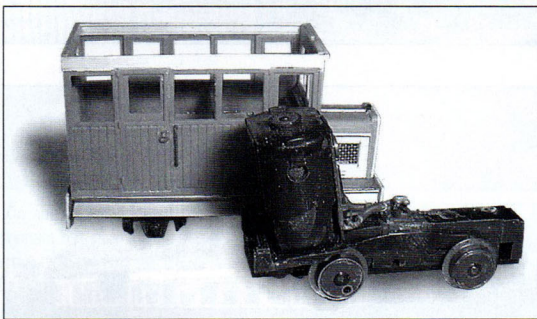
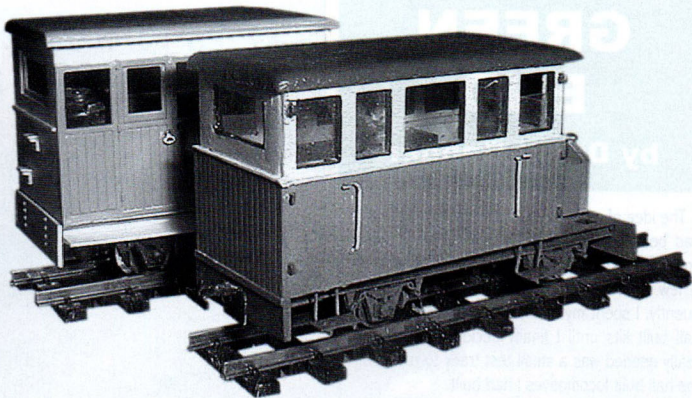
Drill a hole in the chassis just behind the



first axle, you can use the existing opening. Then solder a nut onto the brass part after you think everything is in the right position. To complete the chassis glue two lengths of U-shaped styrene onto the brass (see photo) and fit axle boxes and brakes (which came from a secondhand 'N' scale chassis).

In the passenger compartment there is only place for a double seat as the motor will fill the rest of the available space. I glued lead against the sides and front (on the inside, of course) to increase weight and stability.

I used the second pair of the DM68 sides for a small inspection car. I will show you that one another time.



The modified Minित्रix 0-6-0 chassis, as fitted to the Parkside Dundas based railcar, and a view of the underside of the same vehicle, showing how it is fitted to the brass sheet.