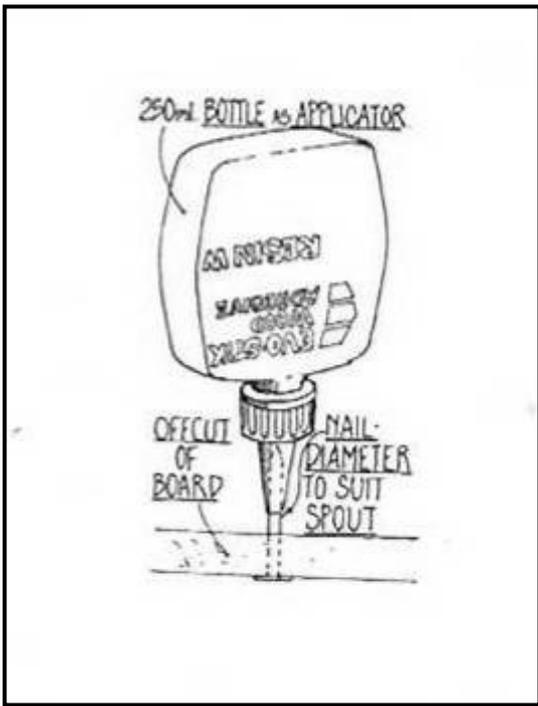


BARROWMORE MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

"Modelling to a high standard amongst friends"



Workshop Notes: Plastic Cochrane glue inverter



The Cochrane glue inverter: This may sound like a strange animal to find lurking in the pages of "BMRJ", but believe me, it's invaluable to we modellers. When I was a member of the Merseyside Model Railway Society we were commissioned by the Borough Council to build a large 4mm scale museum diorama of part of the Birkenhead Woodside area, including the station. At 19ft x 11ft, this was a pretty substantial model, and the supporting structure was an extensive and involved piece of carpentry involving an awful lot of pieces of wood. Most of the pieces needed to be stuck together, for which purpose we mostly used PVA Evostik 'Resin W' woodworking glue – several gallons of the stuff in total.

As a glue, this works brilliantly, but it does have one major snag: the contents of the container settle unerringly and, it seems, quite rapidly, to the bottom of the bottle between each use. Oddly enough, however, when gravity is called upon to get the goo back up the spout of the bottle, things move a good deal more slowly. Indeed, with the pot less than half full, we found we were spending more time waiting for the thick contents to

dribble oh so very slowly down the sides of the bottle and into the applicator spout than we were getting on with the gluing. This is probably made worse by the fact that with the container inverted, air has more of a problem getting into the bottle to replace the draining adhesive than is the case when things are 'right way up'.

It was a Woodside group member, Frank Cochrane, who came up with the obvious solution to the problem: Keep the bottle inverted at all times. This is simply accomplished by taking a piece of scrap board, big enough to provide a stable base for a full and inverted bottle of Resin W (we used the 125ml or 250ml size for ease of application) and hammered a wire nail of a diameter appropriate to the hole in the spout, through the middle of it. The glue bottle was simply parked spout-down on this nail while not in use, keeping the stuff stoppered up but ready for action. If you can find a stainless steel nail, this will avoid rust staining the glue.

While we may have used a 125ml size bottle to apply our Resin W, we certainly didn't buy it in such small quantities. A 2.5litre can of this admirable adhesive costs about £16, whereas the going rate for the 125ml size starts at £2.98 in discount D-I-Y stores. Two and a half litres at that rate would cost you about £59, so it's well worth the hassle of refilling the small bottle, bought for the sake of its nozzle, from a larger container - even if you don't need to buy the stuff by the gallon.