

BARROWMORE

MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

"Modelling to a high standard amongst friends"



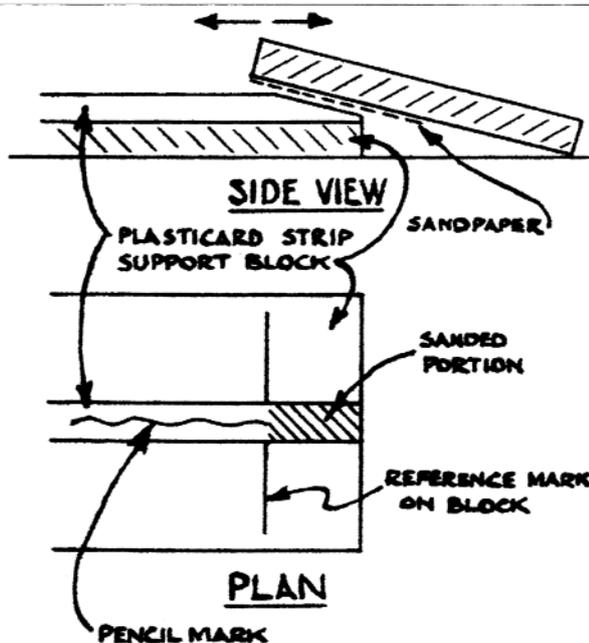
Workshop notes: end stanchions

This is another reprint from "Precision" – the magazine of the now defunct Protofour Society. This was by someone called J.M.Walker to whom acknowledgement is made; it was first published in their issue no.10, in September 1975.

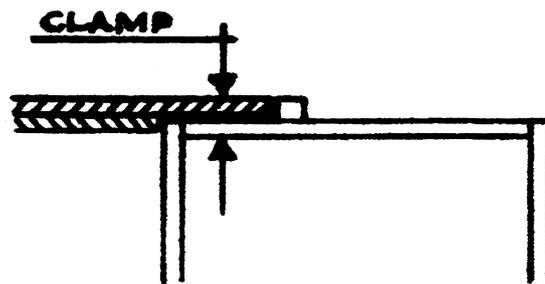
Many of the older goods wagons had their ends strengthened by wooden stanchions which were of rectangular section at the lower end but tapered towards the upper end. It can be a tedious job to make several stanchions all of the same thickness and taper but unless they are all identical it is a conspicuous fault on the finished model.

My methods are simple and give good results; I use 'Plastikard' but it should work equally well with wood. A rectangular strip is cut - say 1½mm - from a squared up edge of 0.060" sheet; this gives a 4½" sq. stanchion, this being a common size. Any burrs or other imperfections are removed by sanding and a pencil

line is marked all along one side which will become the outside face. The strip is laid, marked face upwards, on a piece of hard wood about 1/8" thick with its end at right angles to, and level with, one edge. Make a pencil mark across this supporting the block to correspond with the required length of taper. Use a piece of wood 3 or 4" long as a sanding block; rest one end on the bench, and wrap the sandpaper round the other end and steadily sand away the marked face of the strip until the pencil mark has been removed as far as the reference mark on the block. Short strokes suffice so that the angle of the sanding block to the work-piece does not vary too much. The burrs on the edge of the taper are scraped off with a knife blade; a little more scraping produces a chamfer if this is required. Now cut off to the required length and repeat for the next stanchion. By varying the thickness of the supporting block, or the length of the sanding block, the steepness of the taper can be altered.



It would be a pity to spoil the job by not attaching them to the wagon correctly, i.e. evenly spaced and upright. Measure the distance from the outside edge of the stanchion position to the corner of the wagon. Take two small pieces of 0.030" or 0.040" sheet each with one edge true and square and stick one piece onto the other, with these true edges parallel to each other, and apart by the same distance as the wagon corner to the stanchion edge. This simple jig is lightly clamped (ladies hair clips or cut



down pegs?) to the wagon end making sure that it is snugly against the corner. Now lay the prepared stanchion against it and attach to the wagon at top and bottom with a tiny spot of solvent (take care not to use enough solvent to reach the jig). As soon as it is dry remove the jig and attach the stanchion.

So many people are frightened off by the suggestion of making jigs, but so often they can be ridiculously simple items like the two described here. With tedious and repetitive work they are essential for consistent and identical results.

David Goodwin. For personal non-commercial use only.
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