



Smallwood

It is 1976 which is best remembered for the long hot summer and the Montreal Olympic Games. On television we have the delights of When the Boat Comes in, George and Mildred and Noel Edmund's Multi Coloured Swap Shop has just started on Saturday mornings. Steam traction ended nearly 10 years ago and the railways have yet to change significantly other than the total use of diesel and electric power.

This is because of continued under investment and the industrial unrest that went with the 1970's. This in itself creates an interesting period in railway history to model. We are in the railway backwater of Smallwood a town somewhere in England with a terminal station that has seen better days. Much of the glass has long since gone from the all over station roof and the provision of four platforms are from an era of far more affluent times than the current general run down appearance. The station still boasts a parcel depot as well as a small stabling point for DMU's. The future will see further rationalization as the Sprinter trains are introduced in the 1980's and the parcel depot is closed.

At a slightly lower level below the station are the remains of another station that now serve as exchange sidings for a number of local industrial concerns. These sidings would only just see out the 1970's becoming part of the town's bypass road. The layout has been built as a test bed for a much larger layout based in the same blue diesel era. All the buildings are scratch built and the layout is operated using the Z21 DCC system. Locomotives and rolling stock are a mixture of kit built and ready run items all suitably weathered and detailed for the era portrayed. The layout has been designed to create an interesting variety of prototypical train movements in a relatively small area.

LAYOUT EXHIBITION DETAILS

Layout Owner: The Redditch Model Railway Club

Number of operators required: 4

Layout size: 15ft x 1½ft – The layout being a terminus to fiddle yard arrangement means space is needed at the rear and two ends to operate it. This means we need at an area 19ft x 5ft to display and operate the layout.

Layout Insurance: £5,000 to cover both the layout and the stock

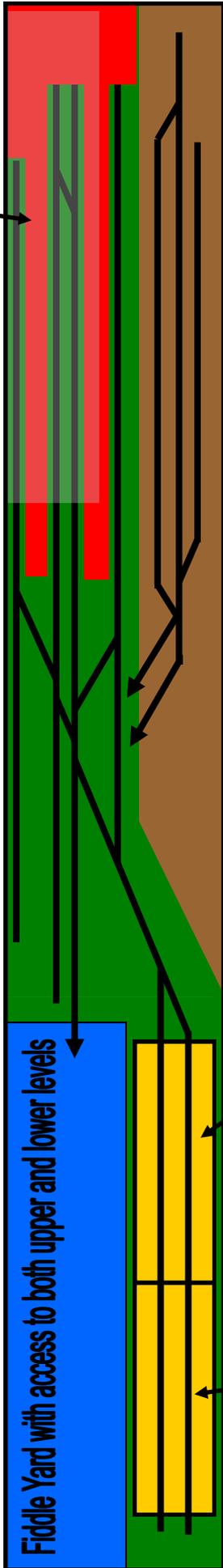
Magazine Features : The layout was featured in the January 2020 of Hornby Magazine

Layout Expenses: We would expect reimbursement for out of pocket expenses for members and or the club following the exhibition of this layout.



Three platform face station with roof over platforms

Green is the upper level



Brown is the lower level which are exchange sidings

Parcel Depot modern extension building

Parcel Depot original building

Fiddle Yard with access to both upper and lower levels



Layout Manager:

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General Point: Information on this (including the potential Guide Book text) and other club layouts that are available for exhibition can be found at www.redditch-mrc.com