

CHAPTER 5 Adding extra touches.

The impact of every layout is really based on the added touches which aim to make it more realistic, from adding drainpipes to Metcalfe houses, street lights, pillar boxes, working traffic lights, animals in the field, gravestones in the churchyard etc.



Finishing touches to the houses involved adding workmen and ladders, plus people and a digger, adding cold frames, the odd summer house, people in the gardens, some chatting over the hedges.



The higher ground on the left of the layout was used by the creation of a garden centre with its greenhouses and cold frames, the odd worker with a wheelbarrow and a well worn pathway.



On the higher piece of land I have put a stable block and horses, whilst the other field has sheep, all placed to be following a lead sheep towards the gate.



The other end is dominated by the church with its stained glass windows (chocolate wrapping papers) illuminated by a couple of LED bulbs. Small pieces of card (Metcalf off-cuts) are shaped to provide gravestones



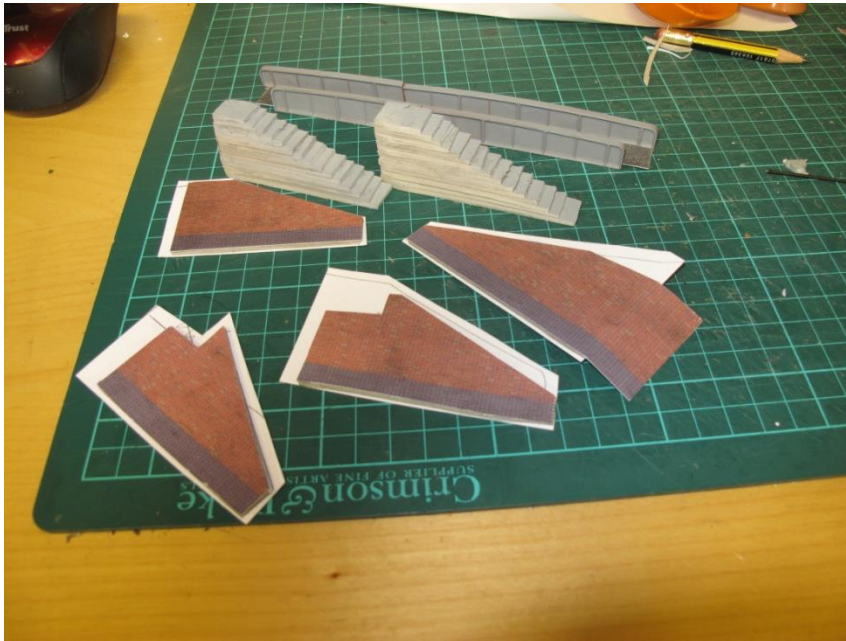
The scenery at both ends can be lifted easily to provide track access if required.

The main signal box on the station platform is fitted with small unused pieces of wire, cut and glued to form point levers in different colours, with the track layout fixed to the back wall.



The main station is pure Metcalfe, with additions, posters, signs, bicycles, both sitting and standing people as well as luggage.

The footbridge is scratch-built from bridge girders and steps made from spare Metcalfe card and brick paper.



The road bridge over the track from the sidings is one I removed from a previous layout and made many adjustments including the angled tunnel. Buffers at the end of each siding are illuminated with LEDs glued into place, rather than buying a proprietary lit buffer unit

To add interest there is a queue at the ice cream van near the fountain, fire engines (awaiting firemen in the post from Japan) attending a building on fire.



These are the main enhancements, but there are a multitude of minor additions.



The Guagemaster photographic backgrounds were selected from two different sets (2 sets of each needed) to meet the scenery needs of the layout and they have had to be 'adjusted' in a couple of places to create over 4 metres of continuous background. This is glued on to photographic mounting board with photographic spray adhesive and these sheets are glued to the plywood background boards (see earlier.) An L shaped wooden strip is added for long-term protection of the top of the photographic images.



That's It!