

O gauge RTR autocoach from Lionheart Models

John Emerson examines this superb new model for the space-starved 7mm GWR modeller.



The latest addition to the Lionheart Trains range of ready-to-run 7mm scale rolling stock is a superb model of a Great Western Railway auto-coach. The GWR was a prolific user of push-pull or auto-trains and this new model is a splendid companion to the 64xx Pannier tank released in 2009.

Accurately based on the six Diagram N driving trailers Nos.36-41 (Lot 1126, June 1906) delivered in January and February 1907, at 59'6" long they were much shorter than the normal 70' 0" vehicles. This makes them ideal for space-starved modellers - paired with a Lionheart 64xx 0-6-0PT, the total train length is just 26".

They saw service on GW branch lines from Cornwall to Wales and retained their gas lighting until withdrawal, the first going in December 1956 and the last in

November 1957. Trailer No.38, used in 1933 on the Cholsey and Wallingford branch, became a mobile office at Newport after being condemned in 1957. Acquired by a private purchaser it remained in store at the

Midland Railway Centre at Butterley until purchased by the Telford Steam Railway in July 1977. It is the only one of these vehicles to remain in preservation, although currently awaiting extensive repairs to the roof before being returned to traffic.

The model

The body is moulded in ABS plastic and incorporates some fine detail work including the panelling and window bolection mouldings. Livery application is commendable with no visible overspray on our sample model and crisp printing of number and crest details. Handrails, queenpost trussing, door handles and grab rails are accurately



apertures at the luggage van end ready to take a loudspeaker. Lionheart Trains intend to offer a lighting and DCC kit for purchasers to install later in the year.

Underframe details include twin gas cylinders - these vehicles retained gas lighting throughout their lives - vacuum cylinder and the prominent steps fitted to GWR auto-trailers. The bright plated steel wheels run in compensation beams in the diecast bogies giving excellent free running - even on coarse scale track!

There is a choice of four liveries - No.41 in 1930s GWR 'chocolate and cream' (LHT 750030); No.40 in 1940s GWR 'chocolate and cream' (LHT 750040); No.37 in 1950s BR carmine and cream (LHT 750050) and No.38 in 1950s maroon (LHT 750051).

Altogether an excellent model and a fine addition to the growing Lionheart ready-to-run O gauge range.

formed from wire and applied separately. Other separately applied details include correct pattern lamp irons, train alarm gear at the luggage van end, driver's warning gong and window wiper, vacuum pipes and lamp. Couplings and buffers are sprung.

Access to the interior is achieved by sliding the roof back towards the driving end. This enables the purchaser to add passengers to the interior, and also add DCC light and sound. An accessory pack is included with the auto-coach. Wiring is ready installed from pickups on the bogies to the floor panel, and there are underfloor sound



BRM PRODUCT DETAILS

Scale: 7mm/O
Produced by: Lionheart Trains, 22 The Wincombe Centre, Wincombe Business Park, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9QJ
 Tel: 01747 850239
 email: lionhearttrains@yahoo.com
Web: www.lionhearttrains.com
Price: GWR auto-coach GWR 1930s (LHT750030); GWR 1940s (LHT750040); BR 1950s (LHT 750050/1) £348.00 each.

COMPETITION > COMPETITION > COMPETITION > COMPETITION

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We have a Lionheart Trains O gauge GWR liveried auto-trailer to be won in this month's online competition. All you have to do is correctly answer a simple question online - visit: www.model-railways-live.co.uk for full details!