

## *2mm swans*

One of the essential features of our waterways is the wildlife, which in 2mm is quite a challenge. However, the larger birds such as swans are possible. Since 2mm swans were not available the solution was to start with 4mm ducks (available from Dart Castings) which have the right type of body shape and size for 2mm swans. Now cut off the head and use a track pin minus the head to form the characteristic long curved neck and head. The pins bend quite easily as you know if you have tried hammering them into trackwork. A little bit of shaping may be needed to blend the body and neck. Then paint the model white and you have a swan. It is not necessary to have a great deal of detail as the swan is normally viewed at a distance of at least 50cm. The eye sees a white blob with a long slim neck and the brain says, "it's a swan"! Simple when you know how!



Since making my swans some time ago, I have now found that Langley produce them in white metal. These swans have the characteristic upward pointing wings but being white metal have very thick necks which I don't think represent the characteristic shape of the neck and head at all well. They could be used as the basis of the above conversion to give more variety. It will of course depend on your own preferences and where the swan is to be sited on the layout.

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