

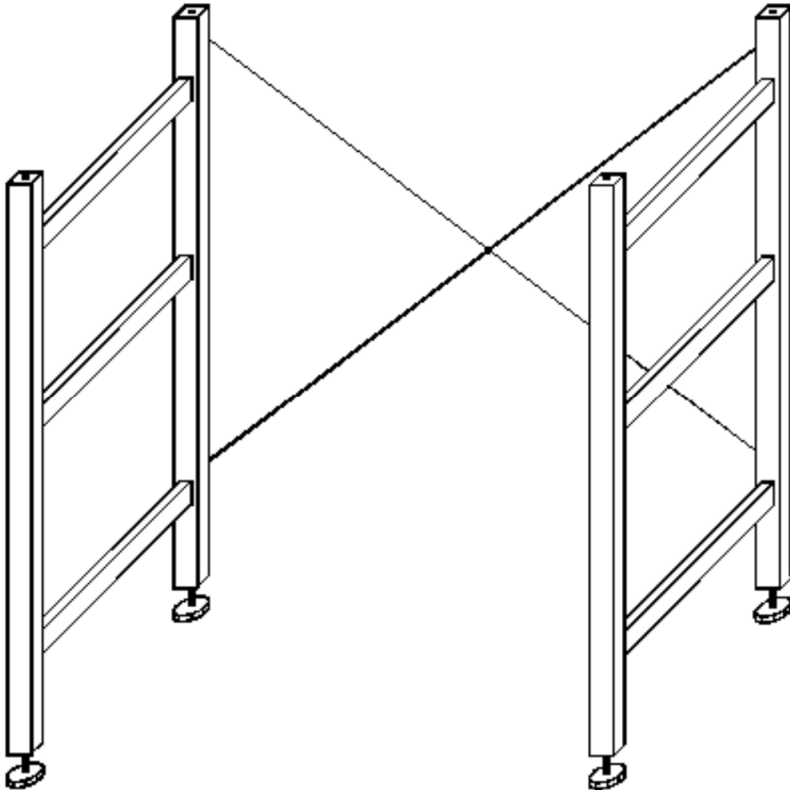
Sexy Swedish Legs

Now that I have your attention, did you know that Ikea make layout legs? Well read on!

Most of our layouts (e.g. Chiltern Parkway, test track, etc) use trestles as support. These have the advantage of being simple to make and use and have some degree of adjustment in use. Another method, is to use built in legs which fold into the baseboard as being used on the boards built for the new OO project, or removable legs as used on Saffron Street.

There is another method and that is to use a sub frame, which is assembled as a self-supporting structure onto which the layout is placed. This is the method I will be using on my home project and will describe here.

The legs are from the IVAR range by Ikea which provide cheap and well finished legs with a ladder type construction, either 30cm (£4) or 50cm (£6) wide and metal cross bracing (£2) to provide the correct spacing of the legs, in this case 900mm centres.



The range also includes shelves and cupboards which may be useful for storage as well. I used a shelf as a cheap source of timber and cut it to size to hold my Digitrax controller and power supply.

Adjustable feet (Page Components) are fitted to allow levelling on uneven floors when exhibiting. On the top of the leg is a pattern makers dowel (German Railway Society) which locates into a socket on the underside of the baseboard to prevent the boards from sliding. Not all legs require the dowels, the end leg units have 2 dowels while all intermediate legs have only 1 at the front. The base frame is constructed with as many modules as required for the layout. The cross bracing is fitted to the back so that wheeled cupboards (again Ikea but from their office range) containing stock and tools can be placed underneath. At the prices Ikea charge it would be difficult to get the timber any cheaper and its certainly easier.

The sub frame is a bit wobbly on its own but once the layout boards are added and clipped in place everything becomes more rigid. If I was going to use the layout at a lot of exhibitions then I think it may be better to add an extra wooden batten along the top just to hold the legs more securely during setup and breakdown.

Paul