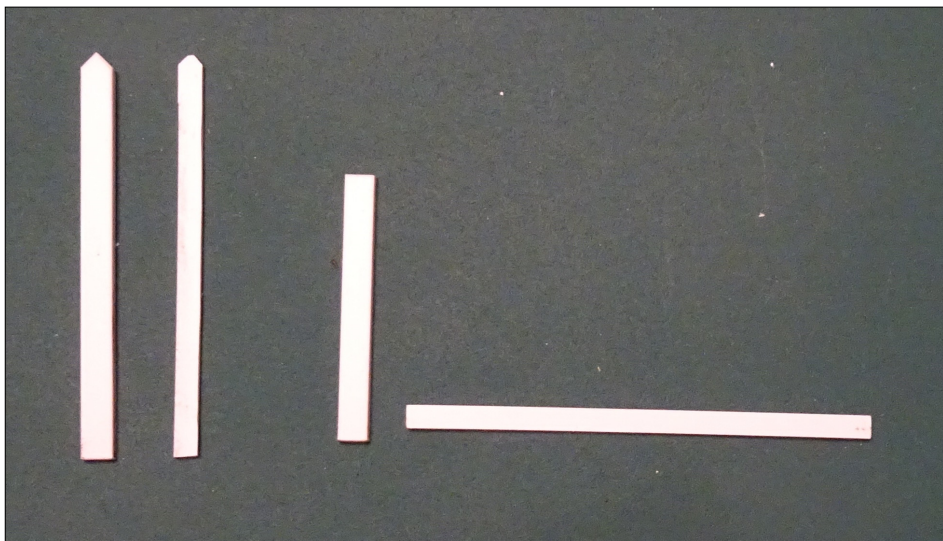


Okehampton Cattle Dock

As you will have seen from James' regular updates on Okehampton, good progress is being made on the scenery on the boards in James' shed. I have had a go at modelling the cattle dock.

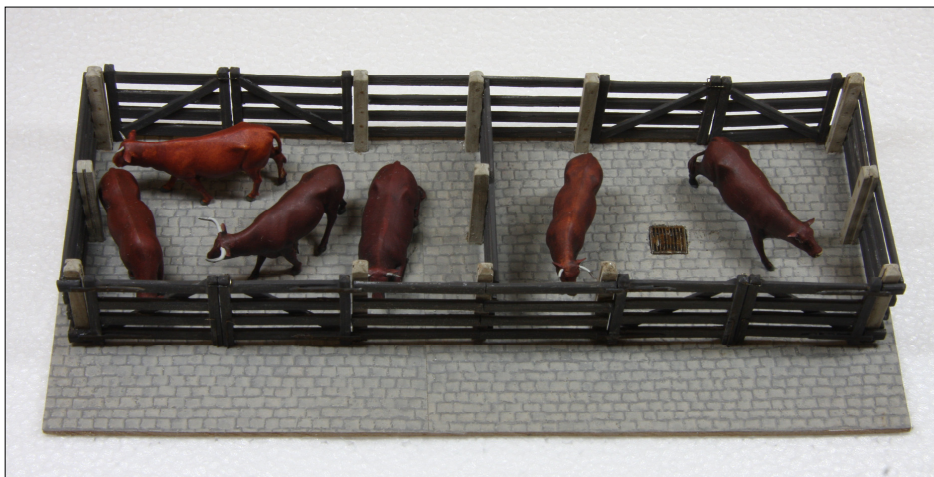
The photos we have of the dock are not brilliant – understandably, the photographic interest was in the locos and the dock appears as distant background. However, there was sufficient information to provide a general layout and, as the SR used standardised designs, I was able to draw out a plan for the dock and its component parts. The SR used concrete posts with wood planking and wooden gates.

James got busy with CAD and the laser cutter to produce posts, planking and hinges in plastic. On the real thing the concrete posts had a centre groove (to hold concrete platform panels). To reproduce this, the model concrete posts were made from three layers (two widerouters with a narrower middle). The wooden gate posts were cut with slots for the wooden rails (our version of mortice joints). Locking bolts and catches were made from thin wire.



Putting this together was relatively straightforward, if sometimes a little tedious – final shaping of all the post tops and scraping the planking to provide a wood grain effect. James also laser cut post holes in a piece of MDF to ensure a secure fixing. For cobble stones, I used Redutex self adhesive textured acrylic sheeting and inserted a couple of laser cut drain covers. I used acrylic and enamel paints and, with the help of Tim, the dock has now been weathered.

Once it is permanently installed I'll add some stand pipes and water troughs.



Above: Paul's Devon Red cattle explore their new home.



Roy