

A Coal Lorry for Okehampton

At the front of our layout of Okehampton is the coal yard of SP Gunn. We have space to represent a little under half the yard so it will need something to fill this space. There will be some of the buildings, and coal storage but I thought it really needs a lorry to get more interest. As far as I can find there are no records of the lorry used by SP Gunn, so I have some freedom in my choice as long as it is correct for the period.



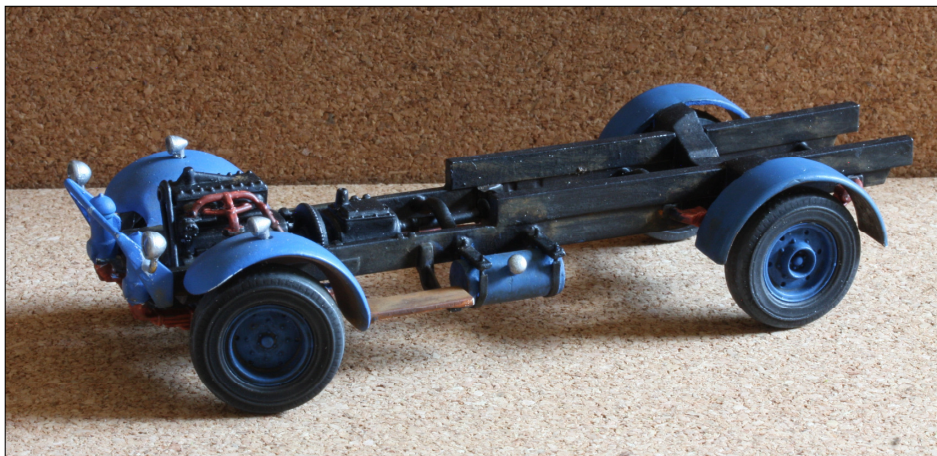
Gramodels produce a resin kit of a Bedford OY coal lorry which was a possible choice. Airfix produce a couple of kits that I thought might also be suitable for conversion. I selected the AM463 refueler as the basis of my project as James had been making one at the time for his own layout and it seemed a very detailed kit. I then set about searching Google for suitable pictures of prototypes, (see below) that could be the basis of the



conversion.

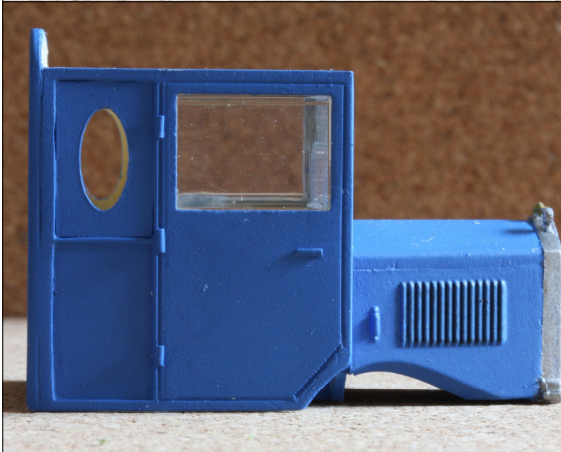
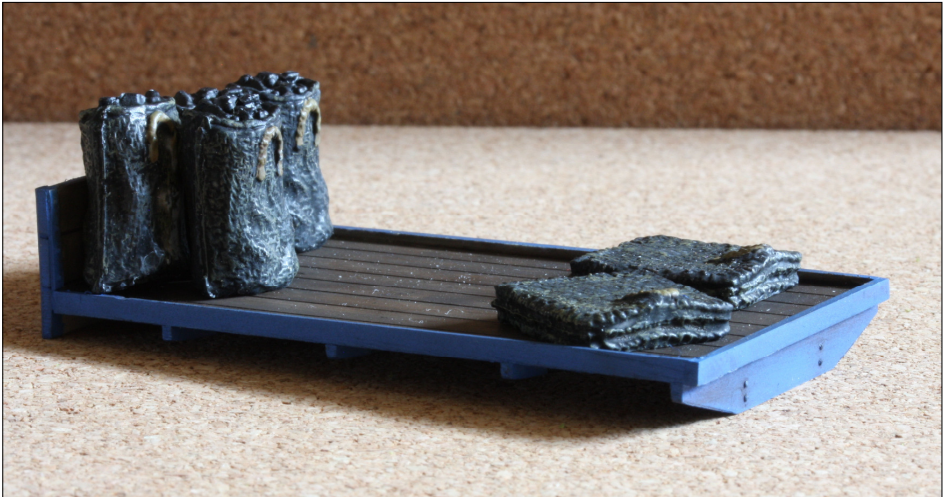
The Airfix kit provides all the parts for the chassis with wheels, bonnet and cab front. The cab needs a lot of rebuilding as the kit cab is very wedge shaped and too wide at the back. The flat bed is easy to make.

The chassis. This is constructed as per the kit, complete with engine and wheels. I decided to keep the air dampers on the front as this was going to be a war surplus vehicle conversion. I thought converting to a normal Albion 463 would require too much work (or maybe I was being lazy) on the front end but would be perfectly feasible. The changes I did make were to replace the rectangular fuel tank with a cylindrical one and move its location back slightly. The tank is a simple scratch build from plastic tube, rod and strip. The second addition is to add plastic strip to the chassis beams to take the load bed. Then I added a driver side step from Evergreen strip which matches the one from the kit on the passenger side. The rear lights are turned from clear plastic sprue from the kit, mounted onto 0.3mm brass rod and then painted. Number plates are printed on paper. These were originally going to be decals on thin plastic but the paper works well and is easier. The number plate, DV521 is for the Devon area but I don't know what vehicle it was on. The spare wheel hangers are made from thin brass strip bent to form the frame and the spare wheel slips into that.



The flat bed. This is built from planked Plasticard and edged in styrene strip. Some bolt head detail has been added by putting some 0.25 x 1.5mm Evergreen strip through the club's rivet press. This works OK if you do not press too hard otherwise the strip will split.

The cab. This is the most difficult part and the most satisfying. Basically, the bonnet and cab front are OK but the sides need rebuilding with flat panels and the whole thing needs to be squarer. The AM463 cab is very wedge shaped and much too wide at the back. The interior is OK to use with just the passenger seat needing to be reduced in width a couple of mm. The kit sides had the panels behind the doors removed very carefully to leave just the frame. New panels were cut from thin Romark on the club laser cutter and I added some oval windows in the top panels as many lorries had a



similar feature. The doors were carefully smoothed to remove the existing panel detail. I had to make one of the door handle from a tiny scrap of plastic but you can't tell which. I could then assemble the front and sides to get the shape of the cab, cutting the floor as required. The cab back uses the kit part but it has to be cut into pieces and then reassembled to get the smaller size (width and height) but keeping the nice curved top edge with it's bolt detail. The roof had two cuts

made from the centre of the back edge to the front corners but keeping it as one piece. A little plastic was removed from these cuts and the back edge could then be closed up to the correct width. A layer of styrene was added to the underside of the roof and filler used to make everything neat and tidy. The roof was then carefully sanded along the bottom edge to reduce the pitch.

Painting and finishing. The parts are sprayed with Tamiya grey primer and then painted with Coat d'Arms acrylic paints. The main body colour was sprayed, everything else brush painted. To get the wood effect on the flat bed I start with a light colour, Coat D'Arms 236 Horse Tone Grey. Then use Games Workshop washes in black and brown. Then I rub some Carr's weathering powders into the dry paint with a cotton bud. Weathering powders are used on the body as well to get a little light dirt on. Decals are printed onto laser decal paper and then applied to the doors and the roof board. This then needs a thin spray of matt varnish to help hide the decal film.

The coal sacks are from an S&D models kit of a horse drawn coal wagon (I am going to



build this as a worn-out wreck to go in the back of one of the sheds), again finished with grey spray primer and acrylic black and then dry brushed with a lighter colour to bring out some of the texture in the sacks.

Paul