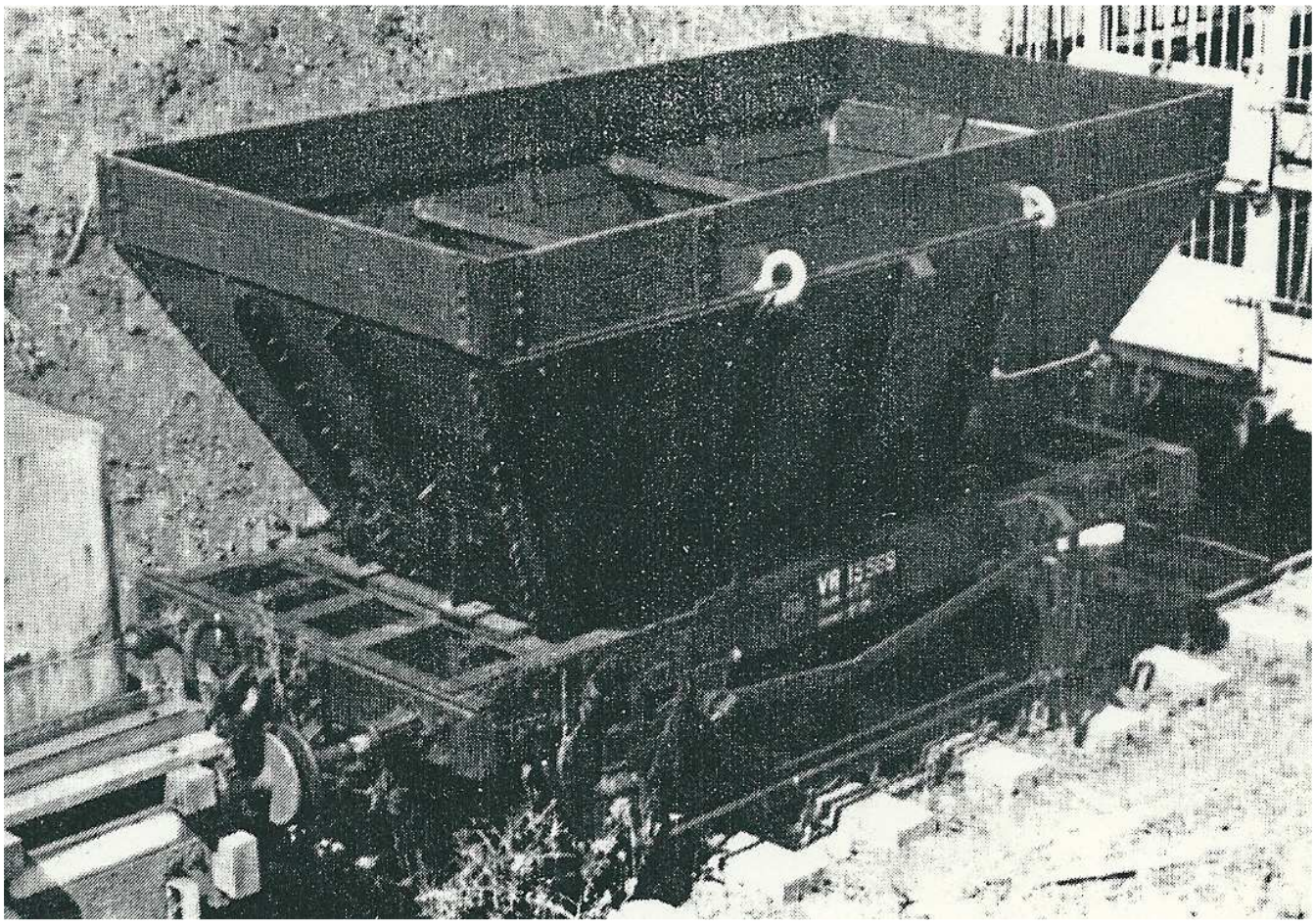
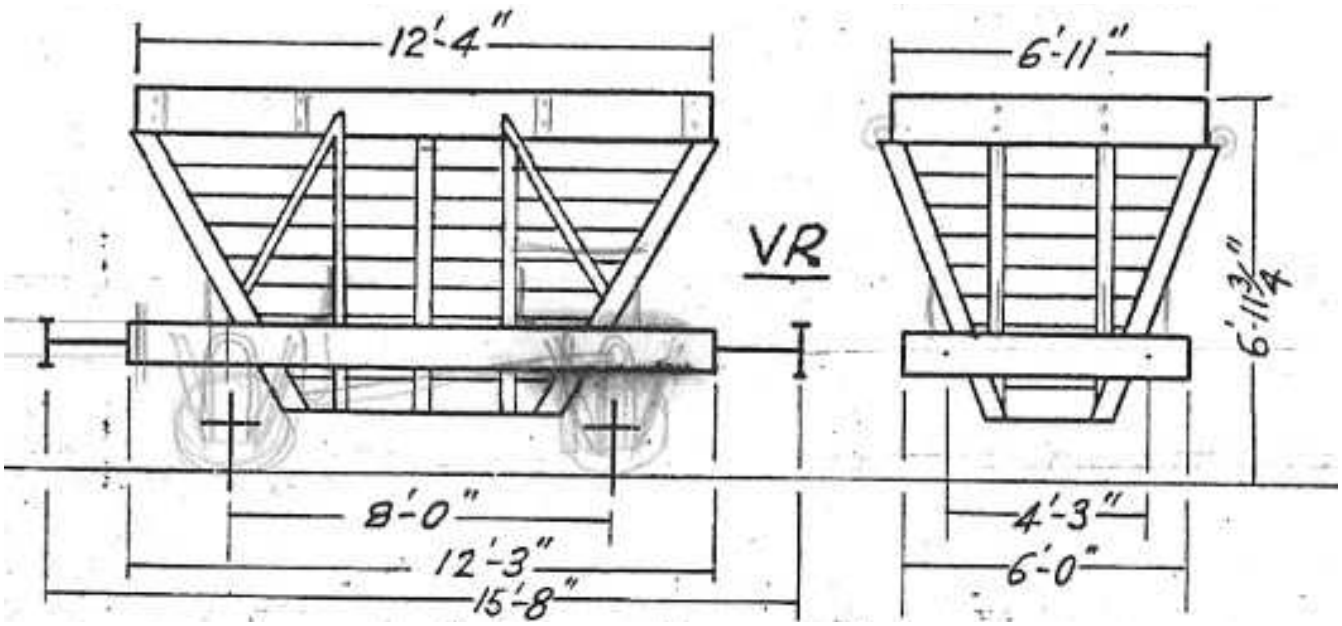
Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

Modeled in Balsa, Copper wire, plastic cloths pegs, dressmaker's pins, styrene and buttons.



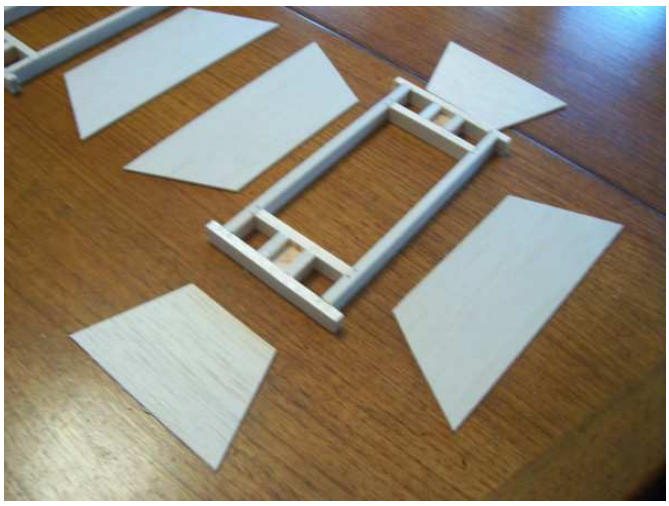
An example of this VR Class of Coal Hopper Wagon maintained at Rosewood Railway Museum, Qld.

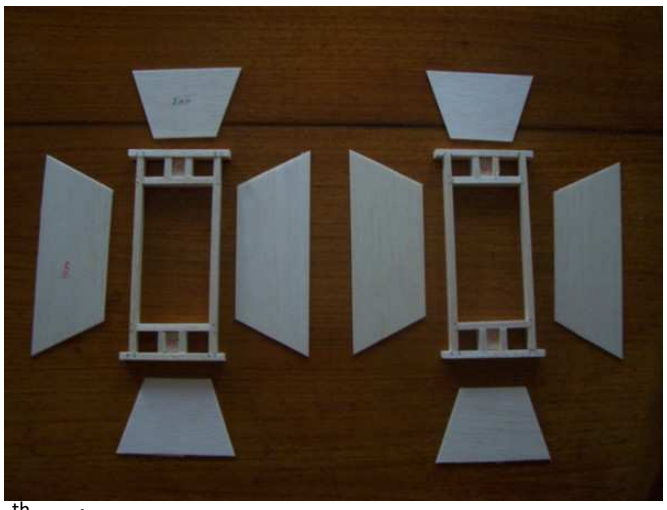
The real VR 15569 as rescued - November 1987 photo from Sunshine Express periodical.



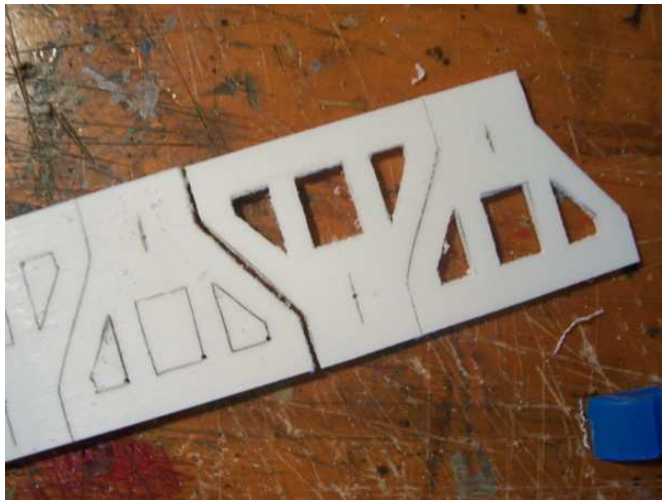
The drawing used to make the models of the VR Class coal hoppers.

An earlier HOn3 model made by Geof Coleman in the 1980's.





G Scale models being made from Balsa wood in 1/24th scale.



"W" Irons marked on 2mm styrene, brake blocks from 32mm diameter PVC pipe, fret work in progress.

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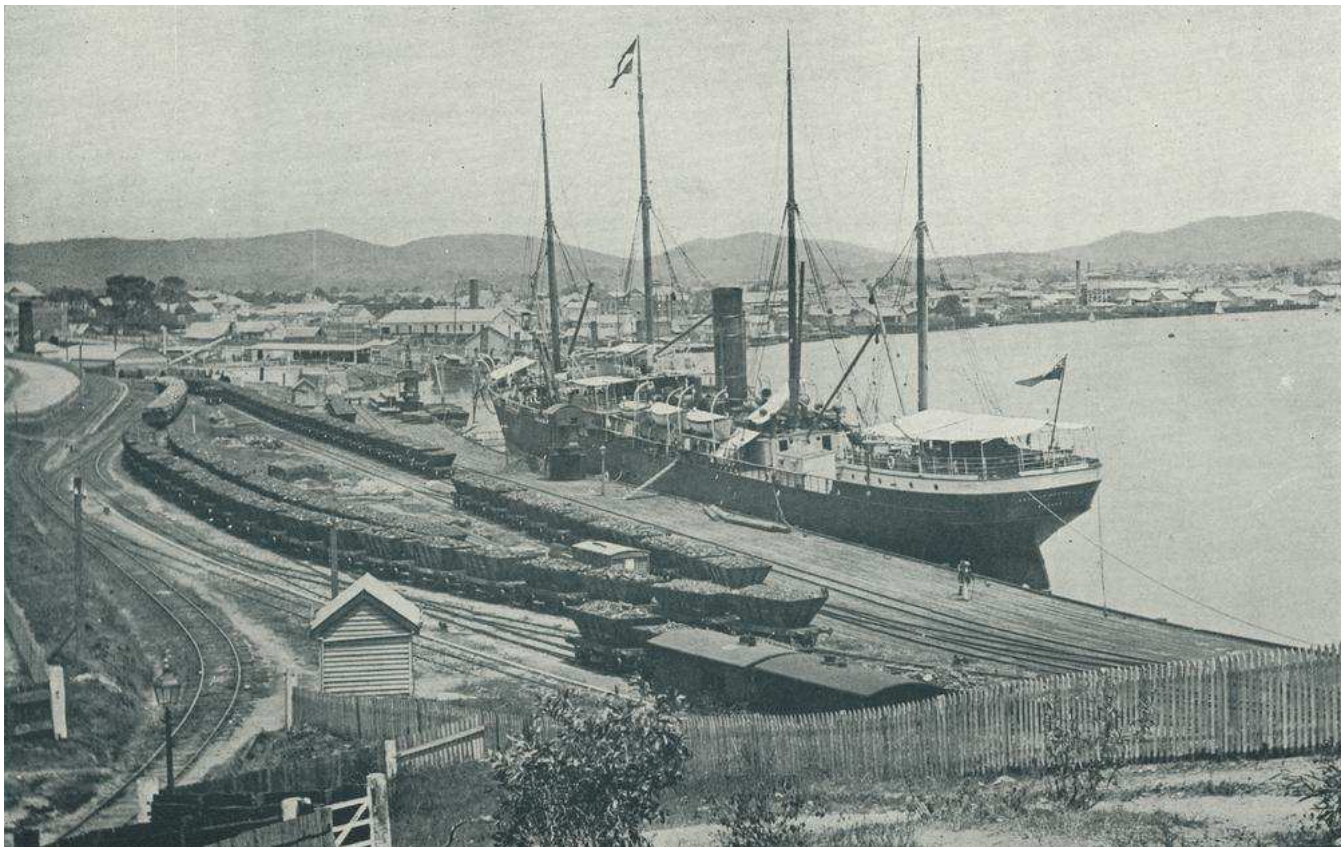
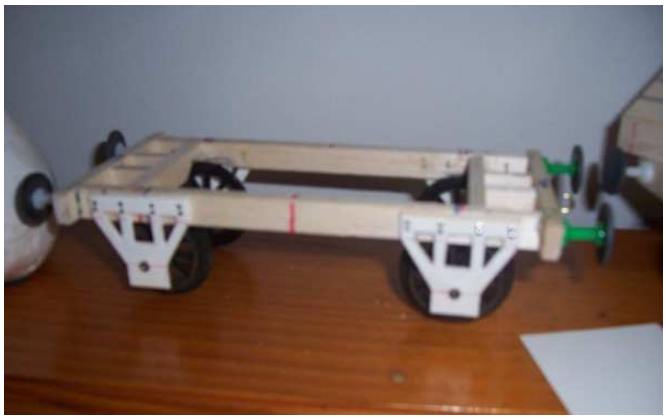
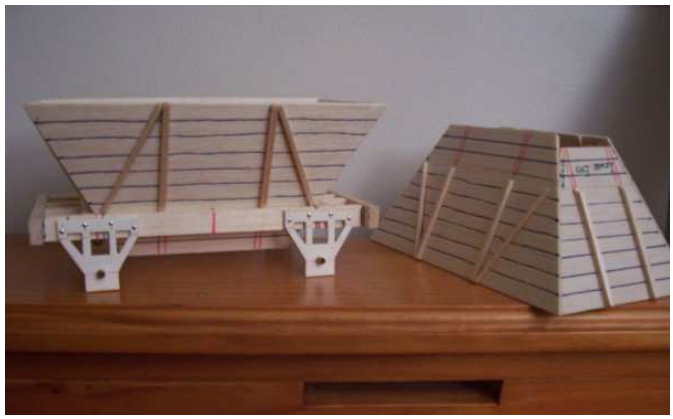


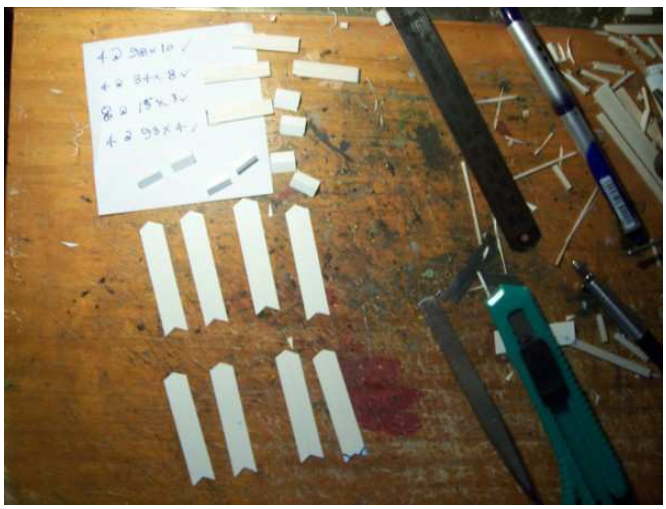
South Brisbane coal wharfs 1890's. Earlier V Class wagons did not yet have "Hungry Boards" fitted.



Sole Bars and Buffer Beams.



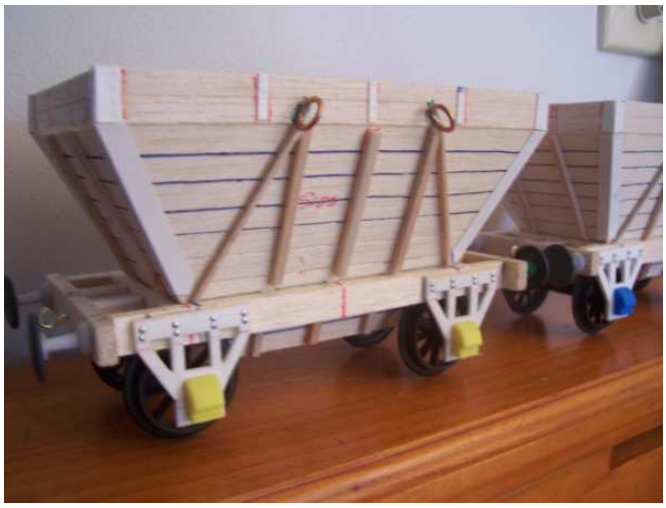
Initial Hopper construction.



Metal Strapping imitated with Cardboard.

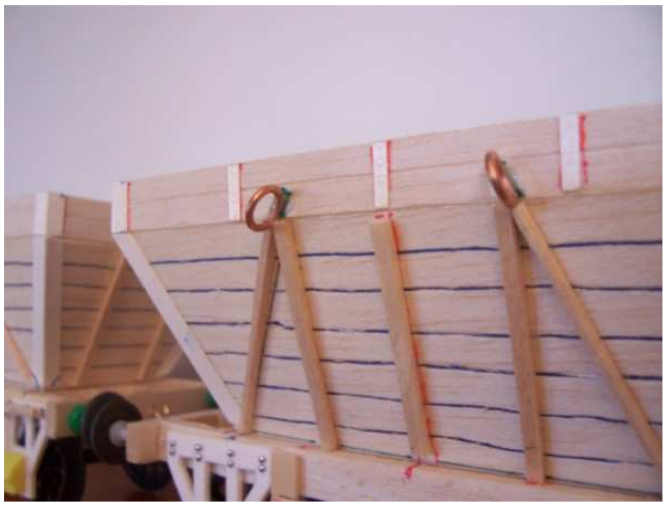
Strapping and Hungry Boards added.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers



Cloths Peg tips cut off to make Journal Boxes.

Brake Lever and Keeper Bracket.



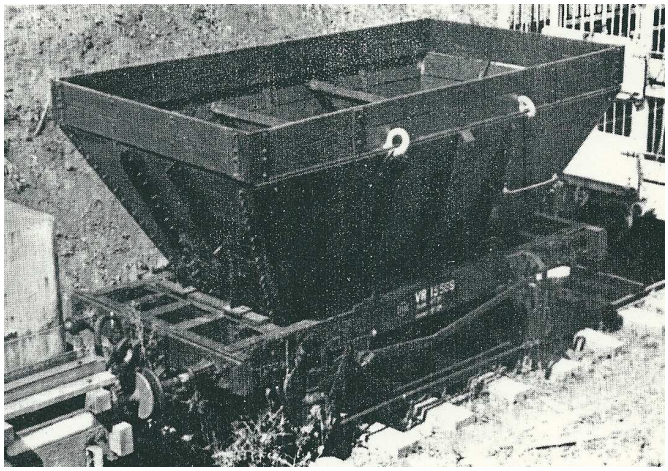
1.6mm Copper wire circles for Lift Rings.

Buffers are buttons glued onto corkboard pins.

Brake Lever and Keeper Bracket. Couplings are ¼" hooks and fabricated copper 'oval' link chain.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

The finished models look quite acceptable.



An example of the real VR wagons.

Completed models in 1/24th scale.

Maybe I should build a lot more of these; a train of 6, 8 or 10 would look good.

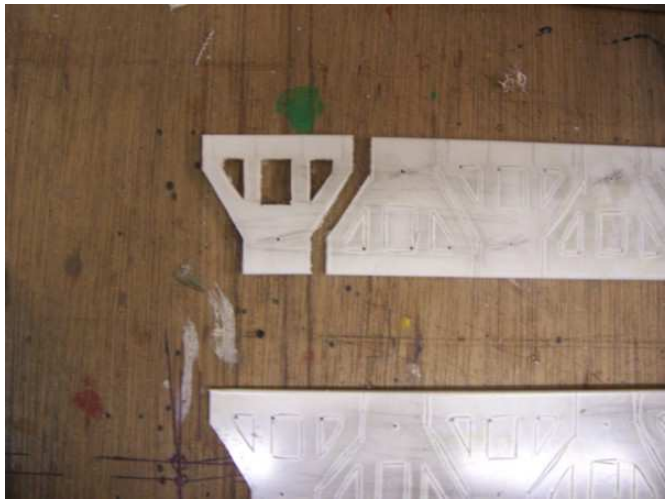
They blend well with other QR stock that are used on the Barron Tableland Railway.

I like to build batches of wagons in lots of 2, 4, 6 or 8 as that ensures consistency in scale, relative size, appearance and details.

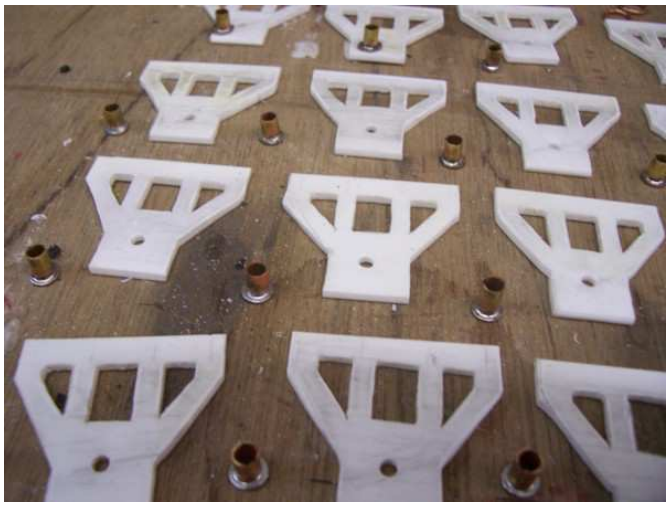
Subsequent photos (following here) depict a later batch of four such wagons under construction.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

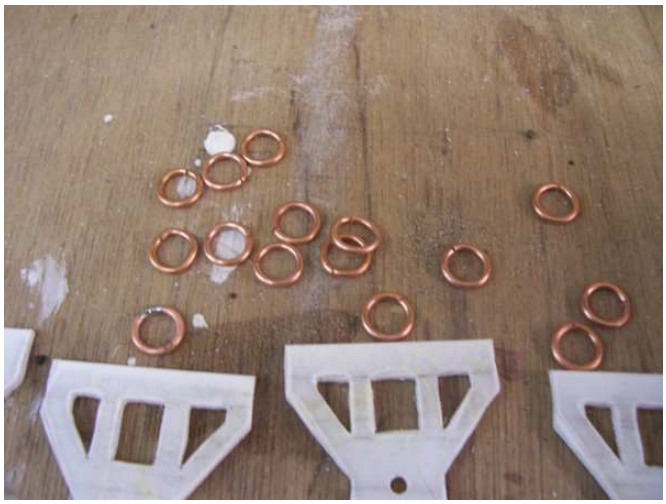
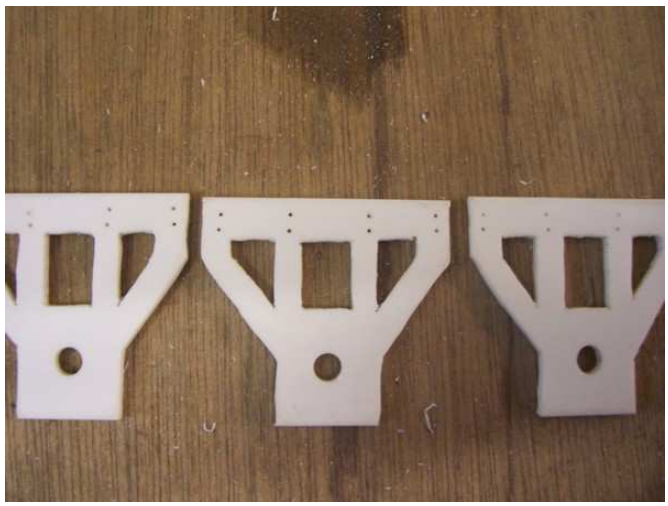
Second Batch, comprising four wagons built simultaneously.

“W” irons are marked out on 2mm styrene then fretted out with a 4/0 jeweler’s saw blade.

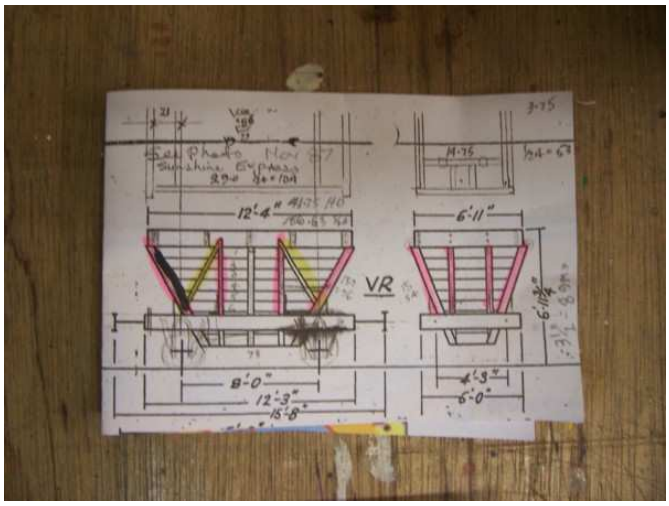
Brass tube & washers are soldered to make bushes for a ‘push fit’ into “W” irons.

Copper wire ‘rings’ for Lift Loops on Hoppers. Mounting holes 0.6mm diam. for “W” irons.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

Second Batch, comprising four wagons built simultaneously.

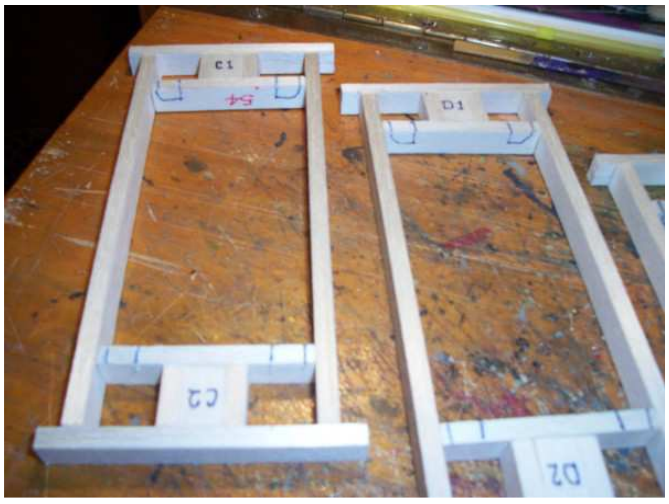


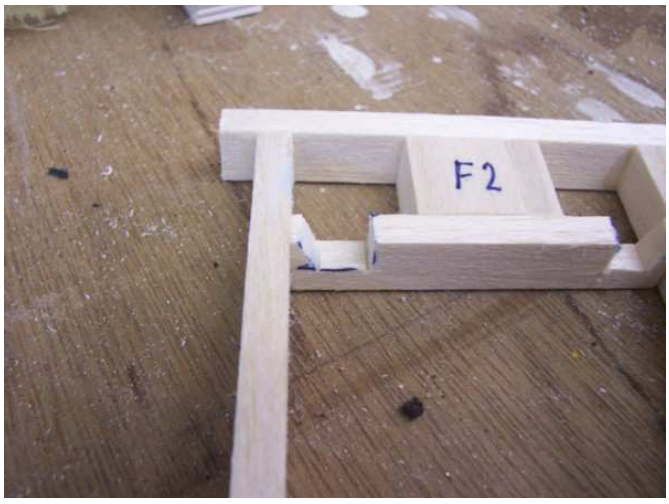
Drawing is referenced during assembly.

Buffer beams and Sole Bars are cut, glued & squared.

Sides and Ends cut out ready to assemble.

PVA glue is used to assemble components.





Main frames are “match marked” to Hoppers then cut-outs for wheel flanges trimmed out.

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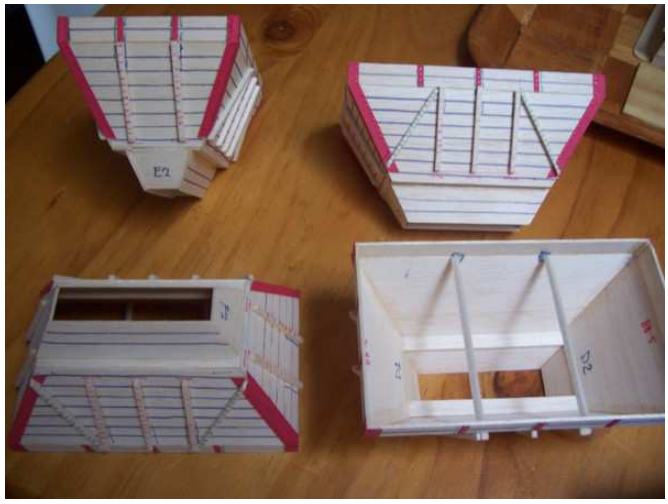
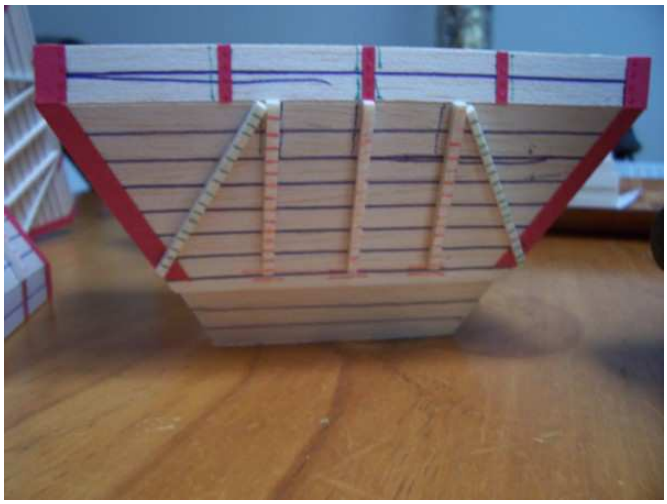
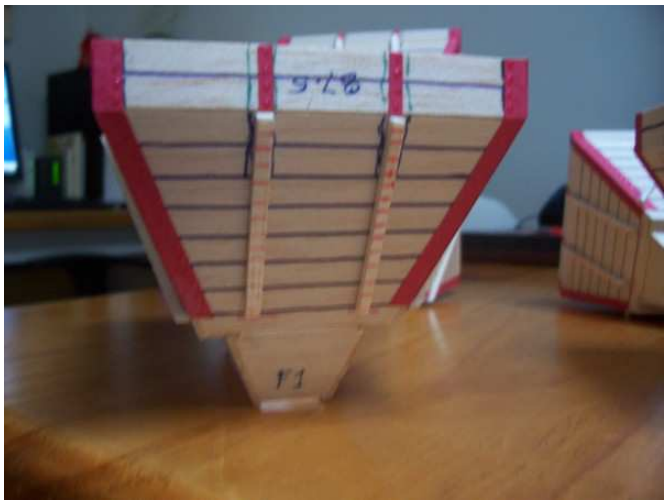


The models need a “step” to clear model wheel flanges, the real wagons did not need so.





Corner cleats, side studs, imitation bolt heads (droplets of glue) are added to sides & ends.

Completed wagons are ready to be painted.

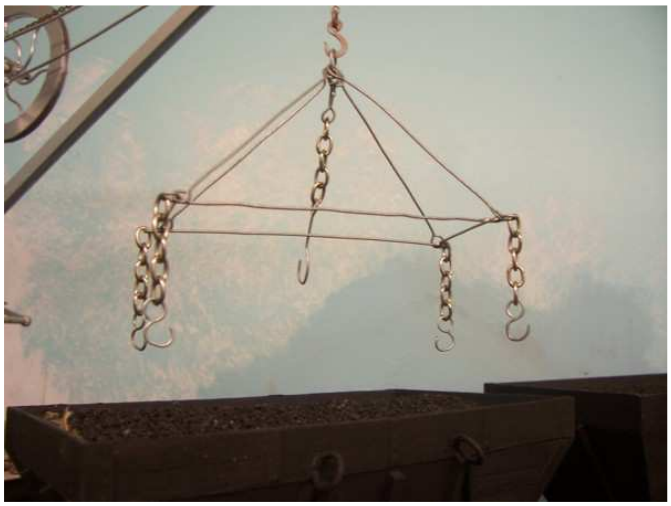
Batch building ensures consistent appearance.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

Second Batch, comprising four wagons built simultaneously.


Close-up detail of Journal Boxes, clothes Pegs have their ends cut off to yield these.
“W” irons fixed to Sole Bars with 0.6mm Pins, this allows removal for repairs or maintenance.

These models feature realistic hoppers that are a free fit and not attached to the under carriage.
Just like the real coal hopper wagons, the hoppers can be crane lifted off the frames to be slewed over ship holds for unloading coal. The crane then returns the hopper to the corresponding under carriage.




Lifting frame & chains hung from a crane is used to slew hoppers over ship holds for unloading.


Lift in progress, leaves wagon under carriage on track, empty hopper then returns to wagon base.

Coal Loads


Styrofoam blocks are cut with a sharp knife, then shaped to the Angle of repose for Coal.


A Rasp with 3mm tooth spacing is used to roughen the surface to resemble coal 3mm sieve.

Coal fresh from the Washery has a “wet look” so a Gloss paint was used to colour these ‘loads’.


Painted with Acrylic Gloss Black prior to a film of glue then granulated coal is sprinkled over.

Barron Tableland Railway – VR Class coal hoppers

A string of six wagons looking a bit worn and weathered just like millions of real Coal Hopper Wagons.

Loading at the Coal Load-Out Hopper.

Moving along ready to load the next wagon.

A train of six VR wagons, hook & chain couplers, spoked wheels look great when trains move slowly.