Reading Signal Works - a micro layout

4mm:ft/OO Gauge Alan Monk

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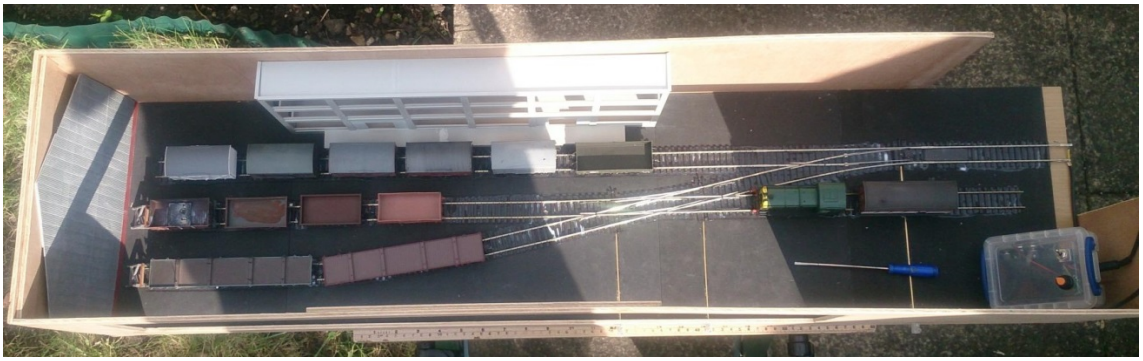
1 operator (vegetarian)

Total operating area: 2m x 1.4m
Support - 2m Table (required),+ 2-3 chairs
FRONT OPERATED and NOT Free-standing
1 x power socket Insurance Value: £1000
Layout travels by public transport (train/bus)

Inspired by this photograph, my version of the south-west corner of the Reading Signal Works site adapts the 2 road 'urban canyon' of the prototype to a 3-siding 5-3-3 'Inglenook' shunting puzzle.

The Signal Works was located immediately to the north of Reading General station, opening in the late-19th Century to supply semaphore signals and components, level crossing gates, signal box staircases and windows across the GWR and later BR (WR). Final closure came in 1984, followed by demolition and redevelopment of the site for the station multi-story and commercial use.

The layout is built on an Ikea 'LACK' 110 cm x 26cm floating wall shelf and uses Peco Code 75 track inlaid into EVA foam and card 'concrete' paving. Power is usually from a home-made rechargeable hand-held controller and the integral LED lighting runs off another rechargeable battery pack. Structures are a mix of kit- and scratchbuilt. The layout features suitable Departmental locos and Signal & Telegraph-branded rolling stock. A random card system is used to give purpose to the shunting moves.



(Above photo shows layout under construction)

The layout can also be operated as Vastern North Yard (US H0) or Lesen Signal Werke (East German H0), reflecting some of my other modelling interests!