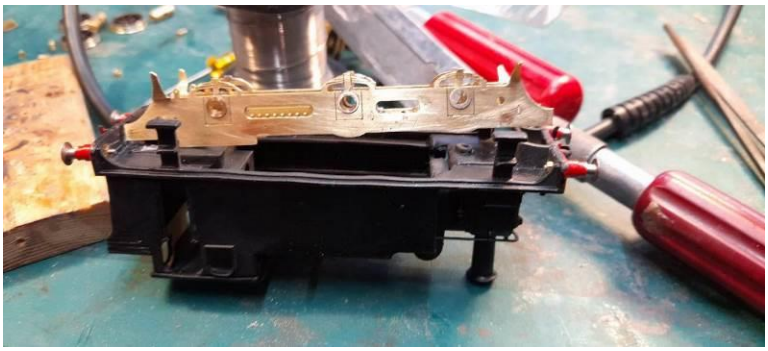
Colchester: The model c1955 Reference File

Class J68 0-6-0T 68638 – CDC kit

Class J68 0-6-0T 68638 was allocated to Colchester from October 1950 until February 1956 and the model is a CDC Designs 3D printed body, on a South Eastern Finecast chassis with a small Mashima motor via Romford gearbox to drive the centre axle.

The model is designed to fit a ready-to-run Terrier chassis, but that has the wrong wheel centres, hence the option taken.

Although the body comes complete, I replaced the 3D printed buffers with sprung LNER buffers, plated over the bunker and added real coal, removed the condensing gear, added steam heat pipes and pipe runs down the running plate, screw couplings etc. Lead weights have been glued inside the tank sides. The cab roof comes off to add cab details and painting.



Although the kit says ready for transfers, there is some printing marks as can be seen in the photograph, so a quick spray of black before numbering was required.

The chassis is designed for a South Eastern Finecast body and for the motor to drive a rear axle. After much "faffing" that didn't work for the 3D body, therefore, a slight alteration to

the frame – you can see where I had to cut the frame to fit the motor - and inside of the smokebox had to be carried out to enabled the motor to fit and drive to centre axle. A small amount of filing to get the chassis and body to sit level – or at least level to my eye – is necessary and the photos show where I had a "fiddle".

My only adverse comments on the CDC model would be the buffers, which I replaced with sprung buffers in any case, a small hole through the tank side as marked with a piece of wire, the paint finish which was only suitable as an undercoat, but not as a finished top coat as the advert said. The material is brittle, but easy to cut and drill.

Possible other changes: The top of the chimney and lamp irons are probably the crudest part of the model and I should (if I get round-to-it) probably replace them.

Above: 68638 at Stratford shed on 10th March 1956 after withdrawal from Colchester *(RCTS: JAY1644 (ZF-1245-43100-1-001).*
Below, the finished model on shed at Colchester.

Paul Goldsmith 11th September 2020