Mortimer Street Depot

Fiction

Mortimer Street depot was a steam shed near a major junction station in a busy city serving many routes. As often happens, a new wagon maintenance shed was built and then the depot was closed, deemed to be uneconomic.

Shortly after closure of Mortimer Street depot, serious faults were found in the viaducts leading into and out of the principal station. These routes had to be closed whilst urgent repairs were carried out, which blocked entry to the new main depot (itself an updated steam shed).

This identified a need for a stabling and light servicing area for locomotives that could no longer use the closed main depot. The solution was to re-open Mortimer Street Depot on a temporary basis as a stabling and running light maintenance area. Fuelling facilities were provided to be used if necessary and the wagon repair shop adapted for light maintenance on locomotives.

The main shed building had already been partly demolished at the far end, so no locomotives were permitted to enter the shed. Crew facilities are at a minimum, but the movement of engines is mainly handled by local crews. Due to the importance of the main station with passenger and freight trains from all over the country and the vast nature of the diversions, a wide variety of different types of locomotives may be seen.

Fact

This layout is a father/son collaboration. It was started as a result of the sons request to build a smaller new layout whilst the permanent layout was being built ("it will be quick and easy" he said…). Dad's response was that we could build something, but we could only use what was available. Hence the size of the boards was dictated by the pieces of ply left over from the main layout. It only has one point because we only had one spare.

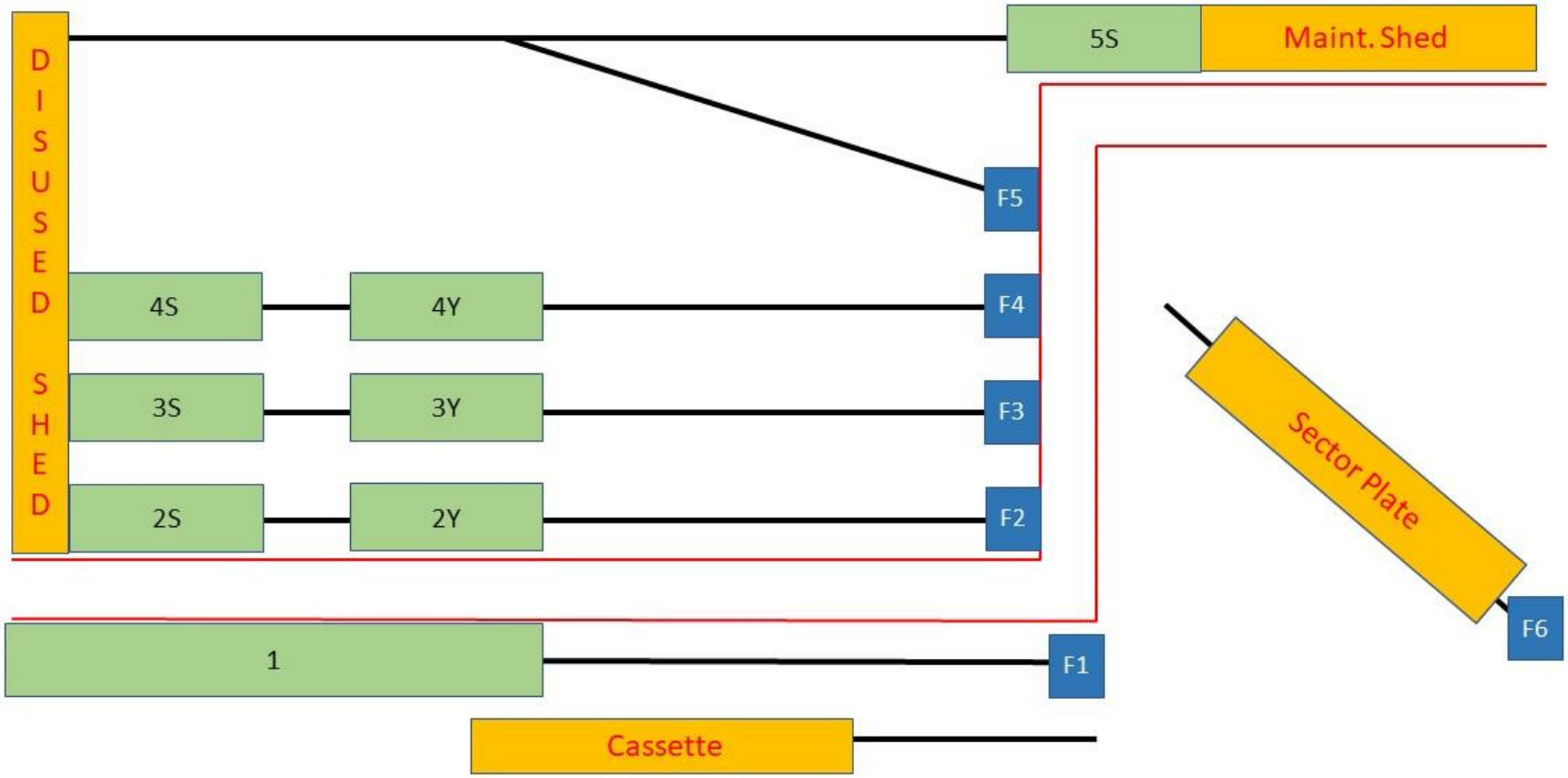
Of course, it did not stop there. Buildings were required, scenic works needed but very little has been bought in. The yard and streetlights were a late addition, and they were purchased new, along with a few sheets of embossed plastic sheets. 3D ground position light signals have been installed and fully operational.

Stock comes from our collection built up over many years. The diesel fleet consists mainly of classes of locomotives that we like, have ridden behind or worked on (we are both volunteers at our local preserved line - the North Norfolk Railway).

We hope that this may encourage you to build your own layout - it does not have to be big or expensive, but it can be a lot of fun.

Key Details

7ft long by 3ft 4inches wide	2-3 operators req.
Require 2/3 plug sockets	Based in Attleborough, Norfolk
Contact – Joshua Issitt 07548 887990	josh.issitt@gmail.com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THE BLACK SHEEP
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