

Accessories of the Hornby Series

By "Tommy Dodd"

IN planning a miniature railway a good layout is of the first importance, and an adequate number of locomotives and rolling stock is, of course, necessary in order to enable satisfactory operations to be carried out. But the smaller accessories included in the Hornby system should not be forgotten. The effect of adding to a layout these tiny reproductions of gradient posts, warning boards, fog signalman's huts and other lineside features is always very surprising, for when correctly placed these accessories give the final touch of realism to the general appearance of a model railway.

One of the most interesting of these small

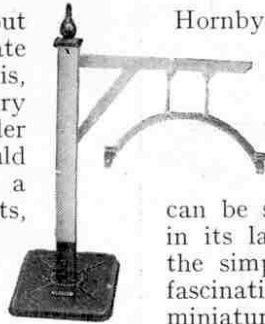
railway features is the fog signalman's hut, for this not only adds to the appearance of the line, but may be used in carrying out interesting operations during an imaginary fog on the layout. On real railways such a condition is often met with, and when visi-

bility is so bad that drivers cannot see signals from a safe distance the fogmen are called out. They are stationed at points along the line near the signals in order that they may warn drivers of the positions of the arms. They do this by placing detonators on the rails to indicate that the signal is against the oncoming train. Usually they put down several in order to guard against the possibility of one detonator failing to explode. When the signal-arm falls, giving a clear line, the detonators are removed.

The task of the man who stays out in the cold and damp in order to put detonators on the line is not too pleasant, and in order to make things a little more comfortable for him he is provided with a hut in front of which there usually is a brazier or fire-bucket. In this glows a pile of red hot coke, that serves the additional purpose of showing drivers the whereabouts of the fogman.

The miniature watchman's hut in the Hornby system is amazingly like the real thing. The brazier, complete with shovel and poker, also is there and the mere look of the imitation fire must be very comforting to the Lilliputian fogman who may be supposed to be stationed at the hut.

A larger lineside feature that is shortly to be introduced is a platelayers' hut. Buildings of this kind are familiar to all travellers on railways. Usually they are strongly constructed of sleepers stood on end, and a brick fireplace and chimney is included. In the hut are stored the tools and other requirements of the men who keep the track in order. The reproduction to be included in the



Loading Gauge

Hornby system is realistic in character, and will be welcomed by all those who know the addition of small lineside accessories make their layouts look like real railways.

I need scarcely remind miniature railway owners of the importance of water tanks and loading gauges. No station, however small, can be said to be complete unless these are included in its layout. To a genuine railway enthusiast even the simple operation of taking in water has a great fascination and the boilers of locomotives used on miniature railways should not be allowed to burn out for lack of water!

Station name boards also should not be overlooked.

These give splendid opportunities of making both the appearance of a layout and the operations carried out on it very realistic. The six boards in the No. 9 Accessories Set have on them the names of important stations on the route followed by the "Flying Scotsman" between King's Cross and Edinburgh.

Railway enthusiasts who build up really splendid layouts with well equipped stations occasionally leave the tracks between stopping places comparatively bare. There is no reason why realism should not be extended beyond the stations, for in the Hornby system

are included mile posts, gradient boards, and warning signs of correct design. On real railways distance posts are erected at every quarter mile. During a journey it is very interesting to keep track of progress by checking these, for very simple calculations enable the speed of a train to be measured with a fair degree of accuracy. Even the most unobservant of railway travellers notice the posts and also become interested in the messages conveyed to them by the gradient boards. When these accessories are properly spaced

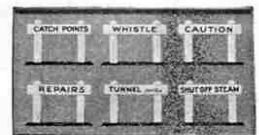
along the line they add very greatly to its appearance.

Signs that warn the driver to reduce speed or to exercise caution also are included in the Hornby system and a good effect may be obtained by placing them at suitable points along the track. Some of them, for instance, those indicating the position of catch points or warning the driver to shut off steam, may be fixed permanently. This also may be done with the warning boards indicating the approach to a tunnel or instructing the driver to whistle on nearing a crossing.

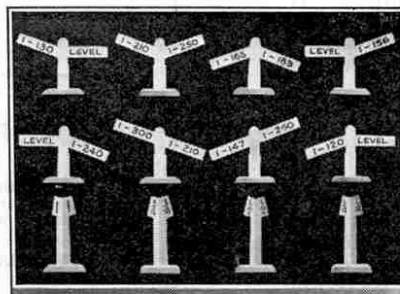
Another purpose for which similar warning boards are used is to inform the driver that repairs to the line itself or to a bridge are being carried out. Naturally it is essential that he should take greater care when passing the scene of operations of this kind.



Station Name Boards



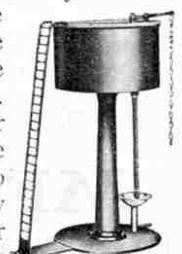
Notice Boards



Gradient and Mile Posts



Watchman's Hut



Water Tank