

Dingo Servo Mounts



Newsletter
Summer 2026



Hi, once again, fellow modellers.

It's been a busy couple of months for me starting with a trip to Cornwall at the over the long weekend at the beginning of May.



One of my other pastimes is singing with the Weybridge Male Voice Choir and we journeyed down to Cornwall to take part in the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival. It's something we do every 2 years or so and there are normally around 60 male voice choirs in Cornwall for the weekend.

The first Picture shows yours truly taking the lead solo in Baba Yetu (A version of the Lord's Prayer in Swahili) at Bath Abbey on the way down.



The other 2 pics show us at Healey's Cider farm (Can you spot me with the long hair?) and with our supporters outside Truro Cathedral where we sang in competition coming a respectable 7th in our category.

1. And the shows go on

We had a couple of great shows this May as well. Firstly, in Bracknell for the EM Gauge show at their new venue and then Railex in Aylesbury. Both shows enabled me to meet many old friends and some new ones as well. Thankyou for coming along for a chat and sometimes even to get some bits for your endeavours.

2. The all new Tension Lock uncoupler for OO.

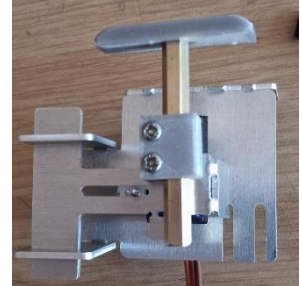
After many years of requests, I finally managed to get this design up and running and it seems to have been very well received so far.

The kit fits onto a standard Signal Mount Ver 1B and holds the 3mm Hex Standoff firmly in place to maintain rigidity of the lifting plate.

There is a video here.

<https://youtu.be/HjiMLFD6R1s>

Sadly, the n gauge version was a bust but I'm still working on something similar for the smaller gauge.



3. An Upgraded DCC 4 Channel interface

Feedback on our 4 channel DCC accessory decoder revealed a serious flaw in the design.

As we were taking the power straight from the DCC rail it followed that when the DCC failed due to a short or other fault, all the servos reverted to the default position. When the DCC returned it would then reset everything but did leave a problem during the failure.

To overcome this issue, I have redesigned the board to draw its power from the control board so that it remains stable even when the DCC fails.

There is a video here.

<https://youtu.be/qFX2gDk4d6A>



4. Continuing Laser woes!



I am still having issues with the laser cutting as the chaps I have used all this time can't seem to get better results from their new machine.

In the meantime, I am having parts cut by another company who seemed to be supplying a much better product until the last batch of Micro 10's which were appalling.

They had tried to do some orbital sanding to the backs to remove burrs but in so doing had made more of a mess.

I had words and they are now recutting the units, but in the meantime I had to make stock so went back to the drawing boards and began brushing the mounts using a Scotch Brite pad and some 3D printed Jigs.

As I have been in aluminium finishing all my life it wasn't hard but just adds

another process to the final product. You will notice on the latest mounts that some of the parts have a fine brush finish rather than the old plain aluminium, but the mounts will still function normally.

We are now waiting for some samples from yet another company. Hey Ho!

5. To oil or not to oil?

I have always been advocating against lubricating mounts until this last weekend at Railex in the middle of a heatwave. I found that a couple of my demo units which had worked for year without lubricating became somewhat sticky.

Closer inspection revealed that the sliders were binding a bit causing somewhat erratic behaviour.

The application of a small drop of Peco engine oil seemed to do the trick.

If you do lubricate, do so sparingly and make sure you don't pickup any dust and dirt which could cause even bigger problems.

I suggest a bit of silicon spray might have been a better option and I will clean and relubricate with silicon before my next show which is Scaleforum in September.

6. Going forward – what's in the pipeline?.

I have a few things running at the moment which I am quite excited about.

On the uncoupler front, I'm still trying to get a reliable N gauge uncoupler working – you may have seen my YouTube video on my latest one. Not happy with it yet.

I am also working on a couple of new ideas for Kaydee style magnetic uncouplers following of from the success of the tension lock unit.

I really need to get the 4 channel crossing gate sequencer coded – I'm part way there but still a way to go. This will also need anew PCB, but can easily be done.

I have just sent some test boards off for manufacture for an updated Simplex control board.

The current one works well but we have had one or 2 issues with the setting up process.

The plan is to use the same firmware that is in our standard red boards but they will be able to be set without the use of a setting box.

This is really important for folk just starting out or just wanting to motorise one mount.

Finally on a personal note, Caryl and I are going on a great rail journey to ride the glacier express at the end of this month. It's a bucket list thing and we are really looking forward to it.

Hopefully will have some pictures to share next time.

So, I will be out of action for a while – From 23rd – 30th June - details of dates will appear on the home page of the website.

Here's wishing you all a great summer and happy modelling.

With Kind regards

Dave