

# MILL LANE SIDINGS

## MLS048 Tunnel Inspection Platform

Requires Peco KNR-40 10ft WB 5 plank Open Wagon (*not included*) or similar

### The Prototype

Despite the fact that there are numerous tunnels and bridges on the railway network, the 'big four' railway companies and then British Railways did not design any specific tunnel inspection vehicles. Instead, in the best traditions of improvisation, it was a case of building a simple wooden platform into an existing wagon, usually an old open wagon that was well past its revenue earning days. Inspiration for this kit has been taken from 'Civil Engineers Wagons Volume 1 (British Railways 1948-1967)' by David Larkin which contains a number of photos of just such a wagon.

### General Notes On Construction

Only a few basic tools are required – a sharp craft knife, wet 'n' dry sandpaper, fine paint brush (OO) and tweezers. The main parts of this kit are made from Rowmark – this is a slightly harder plastic than most kits which enables it to go through a laser cutting process without melting. Normal liquid polystyrene does not always weld the parts, however, a stronger glue such as Plastic Weld (intended for ABS, Perspex, etc.) will. The resulting joints may still, however, be a little brittle, so it is recommended that once dry, joints are reinforced on the inside with a thin brush of another adhesive such as PVA or superglue.

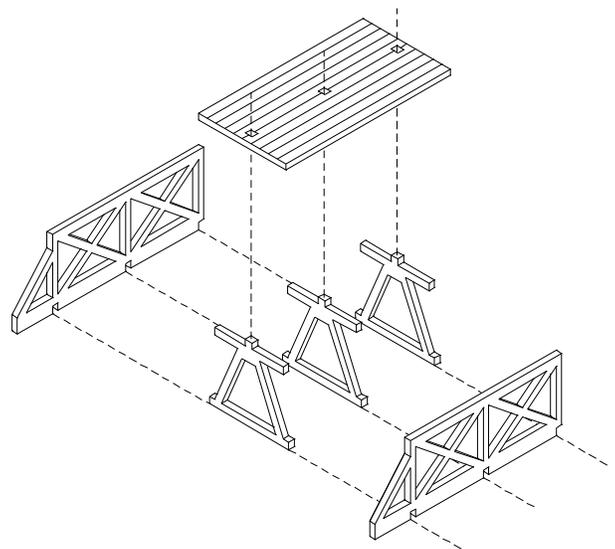
### Alterations To The Wagon

This kit is designed to fit the Peco KNR-40 10ft wheelbase 5 plank Open Wagon (or any of the readymade Peco 5 plank open wagons). It will also fit the 7 plank version of the Peco open wagon. It will fit other open wagons such as the Poole era Graham Garish 5 and 7 plank open wagons.

The Peco wagons have four triangular mouldings inside the wagons (on the sides) which need to be removed. Use a sharp knife to pare the plastic away until it is flush with the sides.

### Constructing The Platform

Carefully push the three A-frame pieces into the slots in the decking piece (these are an interference fit and should hold temporarily). Add the side pieces so that the slots in the bottom of the sides fit onto the tabs at the bottom corners of the A-frame. The sides rest against the top of the A-frames and under the decking. When you are satisfied that everything is square, apply adhesive to all of the joints.



### Painting

Before fitting the Tunnel Inspection Platform to the inside of the wagon, it is recommended that you paint the inside of the wagon and the platform itself. You may find it easier to spray the platform first with an aerosol primer paint to give a good base on which to paint.

As an ex-revenue earning wagon, the wagon would have been fairly rundown and dirty by the time it came to be used as an inspection platform, with the barest traces of its original livery. The platform itself would have likely used new timber – Humbrol Acrylic 'wood' paint is ideal for this.