

A jig for the new etched bullhead chairs

Dave Searle explains.

Photographs by the author.

Reading Laurie Adams' excellent explanation of how to use the new etched chairs (Aug/Sep 2018), I picked up on a comment he made about using a 1mm slot to push through the chair tabs.

I thought that it should be possible to produce a jig with slots which matched the spacing of the etches. All three types of chair etch are on the same centre lines, so it would be possible to use one jig for all of them.

I took a small block of Tufnol and milled ten 1mm slots at 1.8mm centres, to match the etches. The slots are about 0.8mm deep.

In use, the etch is placed on the jig so that the tabs can be pushed through into the slots with a small jeweller's screwdriver. They should be opened up far enough for the rail to fit between them. I found it useful to use a small flat metal block (in my case a small engineer's square) to hold the etches flat while pushing the tabs through, as in the second photo.

Using this method, the whole etch sheet can be done in one go. The individual chairs are then split off and we are ready to assemble.

With this technique, the chair (with all the tabs lifted up) is positioned below the rail (between the sleepers) and lifted up to the rail and then slid sideways along the rail to position it on the sleeper.

