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# **RAGSTONE MODELS**

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## **Great Eastern Ballast Wagon Kit**

### **Diagram 39**

Version no: 1.0

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West Midlands  
B65 9SH

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## Great Eastern Ballast Wagon

### History

These wagons, with drop sides, one drop end and one fixed end were built with dumb buffers and no brakes to carry ballast and permanent way materials and would often have been formed into trains with a Permanent Way brake van at each end to provide braking. A model of this brake van is under development. We also produce a model of the later 1892 wagons, which also survived until the mid 1930's.

These wagons were built as follows:

Birmingham C&W Co	40 wagons 1878	All withdrawn by 1910
GER	60 wagons 1880-84	All withdrawn by 1910
	36 wagons 1885	
	45 wagons 1886	

There were 58 survivors in 1910, 51 at grouping, 21 in 1930 and 1 in 1938 which had been withdrawn by 1946.

### Numbers

Dia 39

Ballast wagon        7112 tare ??, 10417 tare 4.5.1, 21170 tare ??

Wagons renumbered by LNER had 6xxxxx added to the existing number.

### Livery

1878 -1892 ish

Believed to be varnished wood with black ironwork with black lettering.

Pre 1923

GE departmental wagon dark red (possibly similar to MR red) with black lettering and black below solebar level.

1923-38

LNER departmental blue (Oxford blue – but shade varied) with white lettering and black below solebar level.

### Further Information

Information and photographs are available as below:

Great Eastern Journal no 46 pp 20 & 21 – drawing & photograph (model)  
LNER wagons vol. 1 (Wild Swan) – drawing and general GE wagon details.

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## General

The metal parts can be assembled with a suitable low melt solder or with glues such as quick set epoxy (Araldite) or cyanoacrylate (superglue), for fixing the floor a contact adhesive such as Evostick can be used.

**Take care with the side securing lugs/pins on the end castings – these are easily broken and lost.**

## Assembly

1. Carefully clean castings and file off any feeds or runner pips as required. The strap on top of the solebar/buffer should be removed at one end to create right and left sides as this is only present at the 'fixed' end. Drill the axle boxes to suit your chosen bearings.
2. Fit 2 axlebox/spring castings to one side, and fit one end (remember the drop end should not have the strap) to this side. Join other end/side and fix the 2 resulting 'L' units together, ensuring the wagon is square in all axes.
3. Fit wheels and bearings and second axlebox/spring castings. Do not fix until happy that all axles & wheels are square and level. If preferred the second axlebox(s) can be left until after painting and secured with a suitable adhesive.
4. The floor should be trimmed to fit (approx 44 x 73 mm) and glued in place.
5. Assemble links to coupling hook and fit couplings to buffer beam using springs and split pins.
6. Clean and paint wagon in your chosen livery.

## Parts List

### Whitemetal

2x Sides  
1x Fixed end  
1x Drop end  
4x Axlebox & spring

### Parts required

2x 3' 1" 8 open spoke wagon wheels (1 pack Slater's 7120)

### Other Parts

2x Coupling  
2x Coupling springs  
2x Split pins  
6x Coupling links  
1x Planked floor (44 x 73mm)

Paint

Transfers for your chosen livery

## **Note:**

This is a scale model intended for responsible (usually adult) modellers only. The etched brass has sharp edges and should be handled with care. Whitemetal and many solders contain lead. You should not eat, drink or smoke when assembling this kit and wash your hands after using these products. You should read all instructions on other products (solder flux, paint etc) that are required to complete the kit.