

## Fairground animations

These kits were purchased through eBay a couple of years ago from johnsmodelkits after searching the internet. I had planned to build a fairground for my layout and was looking for a good source of fairground attractions which maybe I could motorise. The kits were colourful and printed on 200 gsm card so I bought a couple and went for it. Some of the pieces are a bit fiddly and small but manageable. I then set about trying to add motorise them.

For the pirate boat I used a broken toy (a domino laying train) which was now not working properly. I stripped away all the unnecessary plastic and was left with a drive with double spoked wheel drive. Connecting a long piece of wire to the outside of the larger wheel then to the centre of the underside of the boat gave me the back and forth motion I was looking for. I would like to have made it go higher but this is restricted by the size of the wheel and hence, the space required. I think the original had 2 AA batteries installed but the motor works quite acceptably with 1 AAA.



For Mickey's Wheel, I decided to splash out and buy a motor (from Squires at Model Rail Scotland) and constructed a pulley system from 2 old cassette recorder pinch rollers and a cut down elastic band, how long it will last who knows. Again a single AAA battery did the job. I think the motor was 3 volt, but the one AAA seems to drive the motor at a nice speed. LED Lights were added at the front, a pack bought from Poundland and cut down to 6. Colour can be added to the LEDs by using a felt tip pen and the final touch was to create flashing lights. A bike lighting kit from Poundland again, and using the rear red light, which has a couple of flashing sequences, I stripped it down to the bare circuit. I used a 2035 coin battery and a home made battery holder! (I could use the term BM, Before MERG) and with a tiny push to make button, I completed the wheel.



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August 2020