

Tram Shuttle



Building a shuttle into your layout ensures that there will always be some action going on, automatically, as we have on our exhibition layouts.

The shuttle on my layout is an unmodified PMP4 kit, but a PMP4a would add even more interest. Please see the PMP kit instructions on the MERG website for details

The track I am using is 4m in length and runs the entire length of the "High Street". No changes were made to the components to alter the timing. The longer the track the less time between turn around, and the track does not need to be straight so there is endless scope when using a tram.

The tram is a Tower Models plastic kit of Sunderland tram number 100, a famous tram from my home town. A twin bogie motor set is available to run on OO track.

Almost any OO scale tram either plastic or diecast could be converted to run, such as the Glasgow tram on Backen Forth which is based on a Corgi diecast model.

My tram has the addition of fitted interior lights, a sparking pantograph, and front and rear lights that automatically switch when the direction is reversed.

The interior lights (5V led strip) take power from a bridge rectifier/regulator to ensure correct polarity in both directions.

The sparking pantograph is the PMP8 welder kit with a surface mount led. The new microlitz leds would be perfect for this.

The front and rear lights take advantage of the reversing track polarity by using bi-coloured, red/white, leds.

The tricky part is fitting all the electronics into the tram, but the result is well worth it.



Keith 29/03/20

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