

Fairlie straightforward **SOUND**

The stunning Bachmann narrow gauge Double Fairlie has been a catalyst for new 'OO9' layout projects. **JOHN GAY** explains how you can upgrade the model to feature both sound and a stay alive for uninterrupted running.



The completed model of *Livingston Thompson* draws a passenger train out of Fairlie Syniad Da's passing loop with a full suite of sound.

STEP BY STEP INSTALLING SOUND AND STAY ALIVE IN A BACHMANN DOUBLE FAIRLIE

1 Installing sound only in a Bachmann 'OO9' Double Fairlie is a simple process, but adding a stay alive as well requires more dismantling. To start, on the bottom of the model you will find four small screws that secure the decoder cover plate - these need to be removed.



PLEASE TURN FOR
STEP BY STEP GUIDE

THE DOUBLE FAIRLIE 0-4-4-0Ts are the signature of the Ffestiniog Railway in North Wales. The arrival of the Bachmann 'OO9' narrow gauge model of these 1ft x 11½in gauge Victorian

era locomotives has been a major catalyst in the recent growing interest in narrow gauge modelling, and we can definitely see why.

On release, *Hornby Magazine* was inspired to create a new 'OO9' gauge layout – Fairlie Syniad Da – to showcase what could be built in a relatively small space while creating a railway on which to run these attractive models, and the charms of narrow gauge modelling have captivated many modellers.

The Bachmann Double Fairlie is supplied DCC ready, or sound fitted; sadly for those that have bought a sound fitted model, this modelling guide will mean you will have to change your decoder from a ZIMO MX659N18 (installed in sound fitted versions) to a ZIMO MS590N18. Bachmann did fit a speaker in the model, but didn't provide solder pads to add stay alive or the option of lights.

So, why do I need to change my decoder? The simple answer is that the MS590N18 has two small pads to which you can attach a stay alive which makes this upgrade much simpler. The announcement of the new Mainline Hunslet comes just at the right time. If you have a sound fitted Fairlie you can remove the older MX decoder and use this in the new Mainline Hunslet leaving the MS series decoder for use in the Fairlie.

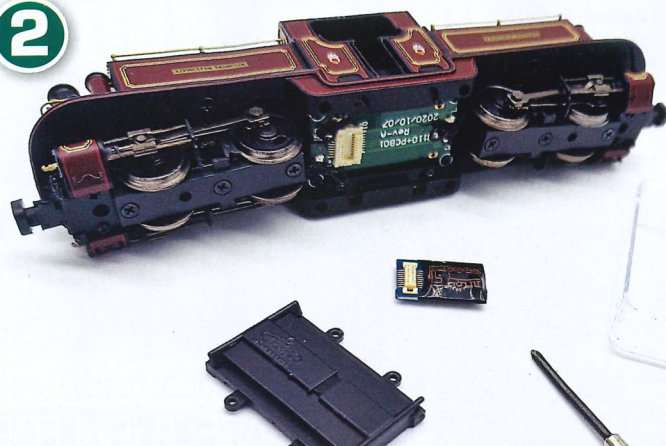
Working on a 'OO9' narrow gauge locomotive like this requires care and attention as there are many small parts involved. There are ten screws to remove to separate the body and chassis and it is well worth keeping a small pot to hand to keep them in during the installation process.

In this guide we have tried to keep the method as simple as possible, but naturally being a small model there is delicate work involved. We've rated the guide as an intermediate project, but should you wish to add stay alive and feel it is beyond your skills there are professionals available who will carry out the work for you.

The following step by step guide goes through the full process from start to finish and don't forget to visit www.keymodelworld.com/building-the-ffestiniog-railway for our full collection of narrow gauge and layout construction features. **HM**



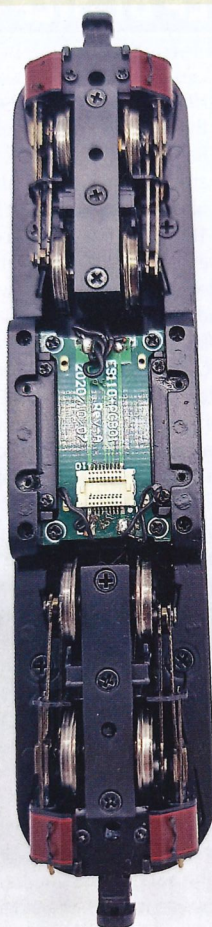
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With the cover removed, you now have access to the decoder blank or in this case a DCC decoder which was fitted to the model. If you have the sound fitted model this would be your ZIMO MX sound decoder.

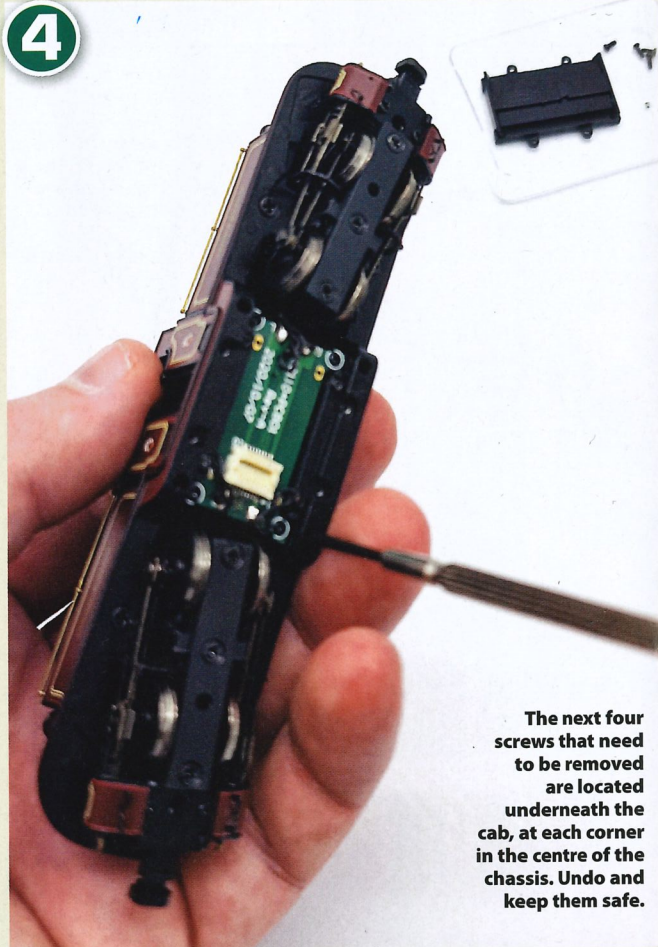
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3



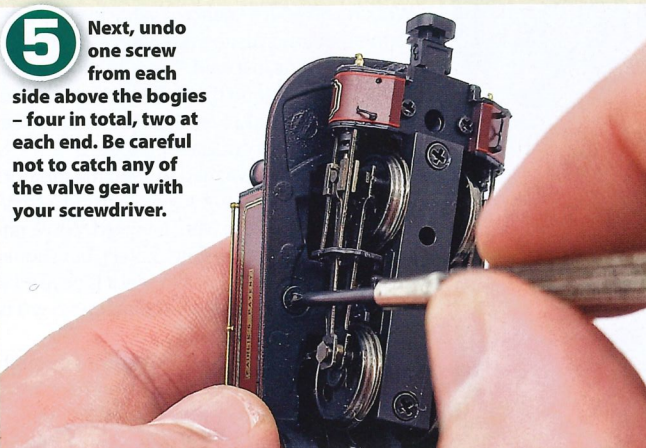
To add stay alive we are going to remove the cab and place a Digitrains 872007 stay alive in the roof. Ten screws will need to be removed. We will also be using the latest generation MS series decoder as this incorporates solder pads for a stay alive to be connected.

4



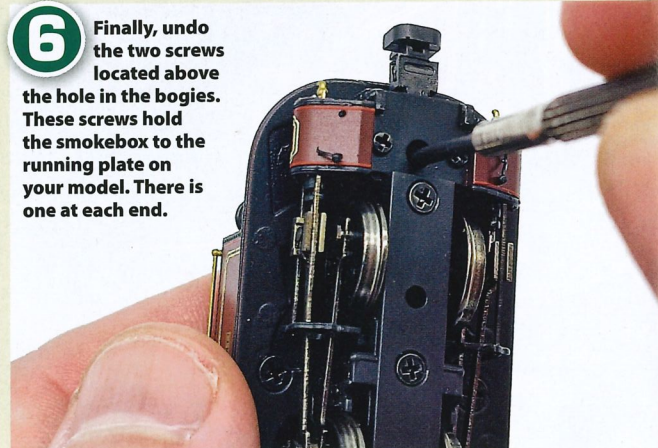
The next four screws that need to be removed are located underneath the cab, at each corner in the centre of the chassis. Undo and keep them safe.

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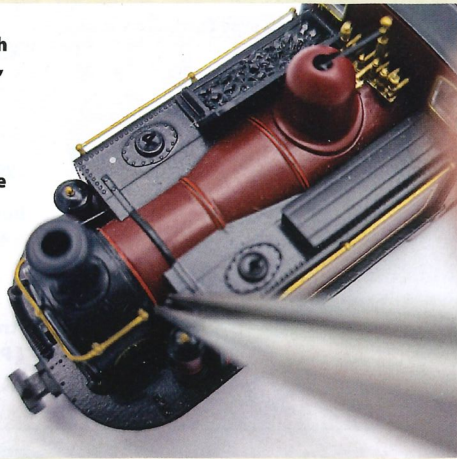
Next, undo one screw from each side above the bogies – four in total, two at each end. Be careful not to catch any of the valve gear with your screwdriver.

6



Finally, undo the two screws located above the hole in the bogies. These screws hold the smokebox to the running plate on your model. There is one at each end.

7 Before you pull up both boiler ends, remember to make sure you unclip the vacuum pipes at each end from the side of the smokebox.

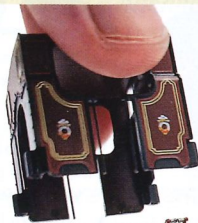


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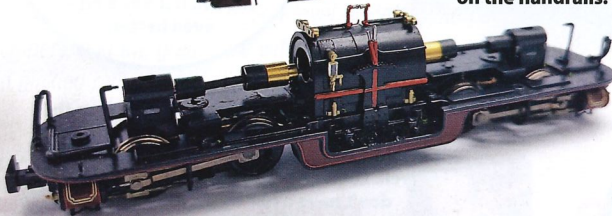


With all the screws removed and pipework separated, you can lift each end from the smokebox making sure you clear any pipework as you go. You can see one end has already been removed.

9



The cab is a separate moulding which can only be removed once the boilers have been taken off. Very carefully, ease your cab upwards away from the chassis, keeping an eye on the handrails.

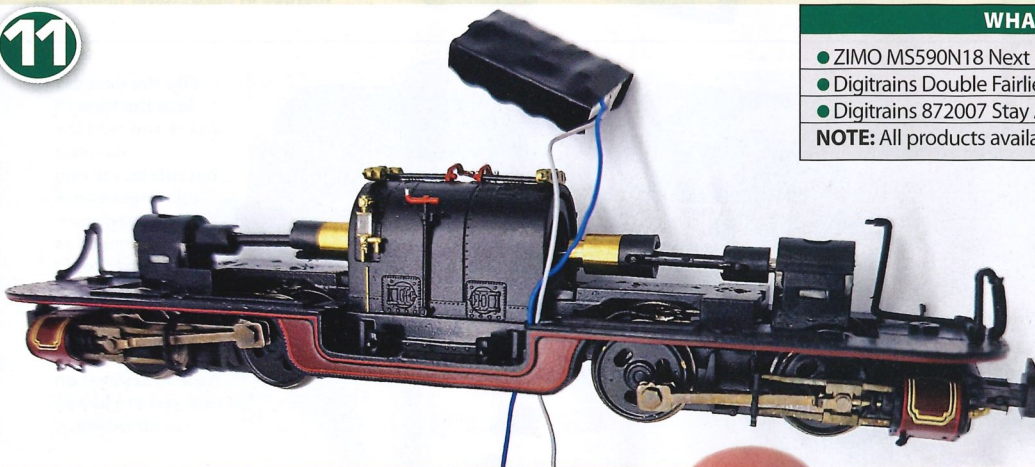


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A small hole is required to pass the wires from the stay alive through the decoder. Don't be tempted to make these openings with a powered drill – use a pin vice for complete control of drilling speed and position.

11



WHAT WE USED

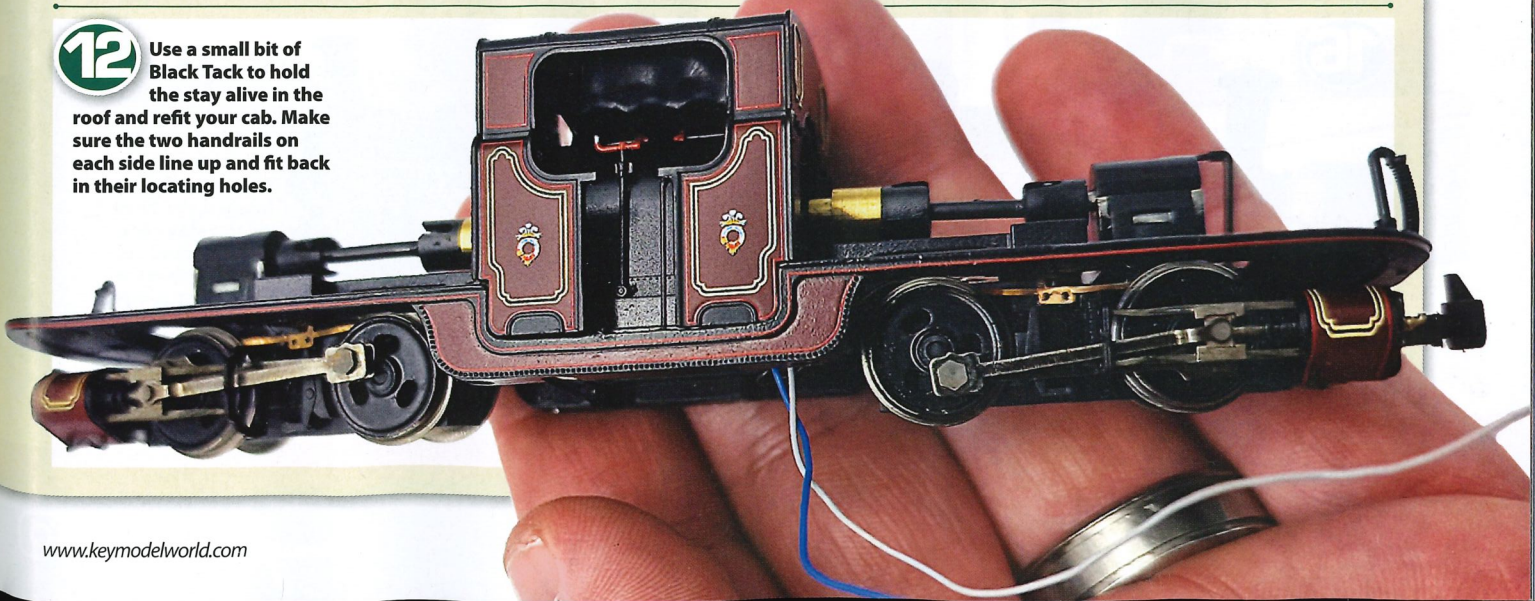
- ZIMO MS590N18 Next 18 sound decoder (MS590N18)
- Digitrains Double Fairlie sound file (ZS048P)
- Digitrains 872007 Stay Alive capacitor (872007)

NOTE: All products available from www.digitrains.co.uk

Once the hole is complete the two wires can pass through the model. Be aware, the drill comes very close to the edge of the circuit board on the underside, so you can remove it with the four screws and let it hang there until you have made your hole. Also note that the regulator handles on top of the boiler need bending out of the way to allow the drill space.

12

Use a small bit of Black Tack to hold the stay alive in the roof and refit your cab. Make sure the two handrails on each side line up and fit back in their locating holes.



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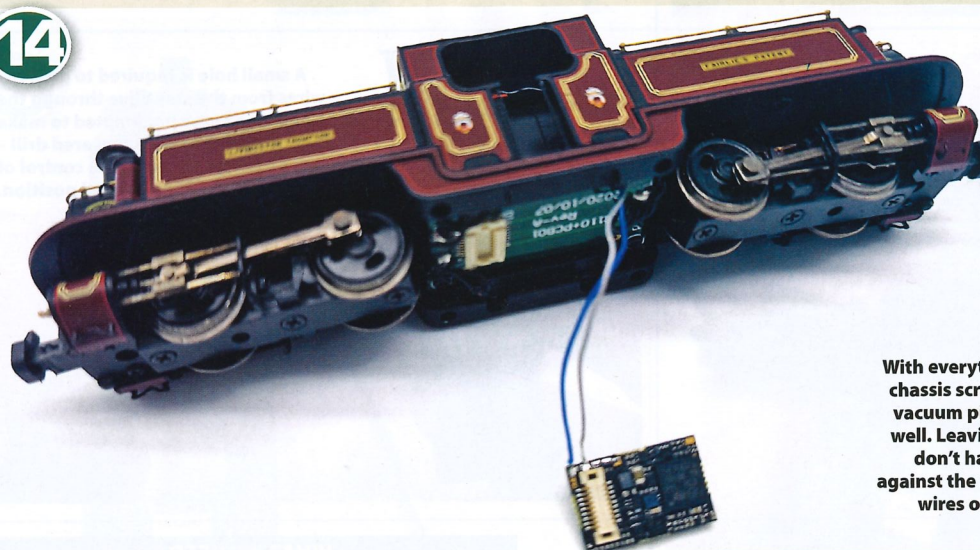
Intermediate
Beginner SKILL LEVEL Advanced

13



We can now start putting the boiler sections back on. Don't refit the cab fixing screws yet as it is easier to reseat the boilers first while allowing a little movement of the cab. Make sure you don't trap the vacuum pipes under the side tanks.

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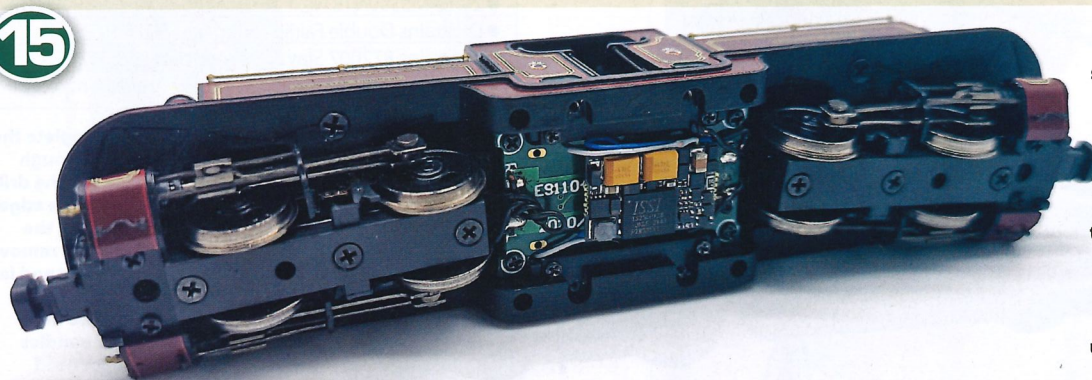


TIP

To keep small parts and screws safe and secure, a small container is useful to place them in. Pop this in an area away from your workbench so it doesn't accidentally get knocked while you are working on the model. If it has a lid - even better.

With everything back together, replace the chassis screws in your model, making sure vacuum pipes are clipped back in place as well. Leaving a good length of wire so you don't have a hot soldering iron right up against the model, solder the two stay alive wires on to your MS590N18 decoder as marked in the decoder manual.

15



Clip the decoder into the Next18 socket and refit the decoder baseplate. Putting this engine back on the track now isn't advised as the decoder could touch the track and be damaged. Push the plate back on first but you don't have to screw it on until you are happy it's all working.

16



Screw your cover plate back in place and the Double Fairlie is ready for service. Do check your pickups as well - just because you have added a stay alive, this does not guarantee that the locomotive will perform well. It is not going to help if the stay alive can't get the power it needs for a charge to start with.