

New bunker hooks for a Winson GWR 1400 Class locomotive

By Roger Stephen

As you all know by now I am trying to complete a 5 inch gauge Winson Model Technology GWR 1400 Class kit loco which I acquired from the late Michael Dyer. It would appear that all the parts of the kit are present except for the boiler paperwork (not a problem because it pre-dates the 2000 EU pressure vessel directive) and the little bunker hooks which are a feature of the back of 1400 class and many other GWR tank engines. The latter was not a serious omission because they are easy to make and, judging by photos of other Winson locos on the internet, the originals supplied with the kit were slightly chunky oversized items anyway.

I had some 1.2mm thick brass sheet and that looked ideal to me for making the bunker hooks roughly to scale so I started by sticking masking tape to a bit of sheet and drawing parallel lines to cut along to yield some 4mm wide strips. Using masking tape in this way is my favourite way of marking out non-critical parts as it is surprisingly tough and I find it easier to see the ball point pen marks than a scribe mark in engineers blue. I leave the tape on when I file the part to shape and drill any holes only peeling it off after de-burring. Using masking tape also avoids leaving scratch marks in the part. Cutting out (with a fine tooth hacksaw) and filing the flat hooks to shape was easy but I did find it very fiddly to bend them all to exactly the same profile – especially the recurve bit at the top (see photo). That was a matter of bending them round a bit of steel bar and fiddling about until they were the same. They really do need to be the same otherwise when fitted to the bunker they don't line up and look awful.

The mounting holes for the hooks were already drilled in the bunker back plate but two of them were very close to some rivet heads so I had to file reliefs in two of the hooks so that they sat flat against the bunker. After brush painting with etch primer and two green top coats I fitted them using 10BA brass slot-less round head screws (from EKP Supplies) so that they looked like rivets. As the bunker was already assembled on the loco to rivet them on was just not practical. After tightening the screws and nuts I applied a little Loctite 290 thread lock (a low viscosity wicking grade) to stop them working loose. That's another job done and a nice detail added.

