

Adding Variety : A Simple Modification to the GRS LMS Plywood Van Kit



Kit as modified to D2097



Kit as supplied to D2108

This variation arose out of a 'mistake' in buying the GRS 'planked' LMS van kit.

The kit supplied by GRS is a BR development of the LMS design and did not appear until after Nationalisation.

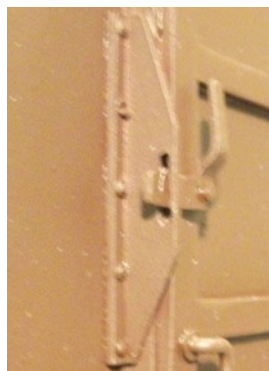
The dimensions and detailing are similar to the LMS D2108 plywood van also in the GRS range.

Having already constructed the D2108 version, I was looking for something a little different and did not have to look far. Built in 1944, D2097 immediately preceded the D2108 (ordered in 1944 and built between then and 1946) but lacked AVB, roof ventilators and exhibited minor variations in the strapping and door latching areas.

D2097 employed a standard RCH underframe with 2-shoe Morton handbrake, so I mounted it upon a GRS 10ft non-fitted RCH underframe. The (now spare) LMS 8-shoe clasp brake AVB underframe is to be employed later, under a scratch-built planked van to D1814. The modifications to the body to produce D2097 are minimal and mainly omissions! Do not fit the diagonal strapping to the sides and leave off the roof vents and vacuum pipes.



Door Latch D2097



Door Latch D2108



D2097



D2108

The door latch design is slightly different and I filed the original, taking the shape from photos. If you are basing this conversion upon the GRS kit for the plywood van, then you will have the correct parts for detailing the door. If, like me, you are modifying from the planked van kit (by reversing the sides so the planks are on the inside), then you will need to cut from plastic card the horizontal door battens.

Livery for LMS period : LMS Bauxite (much darker than the BR shade) for sides, ends, solebars, headstocks and buffer guides; black running gear; roof grey.

Incidentally, all the photos here were taken with the same digital camera, under the same lighting conditions and in a single session....which only goes to prove that photos are not a reliable source from which to judge colour!