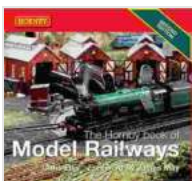


# Hornby of Model Railways: The Story of a Model Kingdom

In the realm of miniature marvels, the name Hornby stands tall as a towering icon, synonymous with the captivating world of model railways. For over a century, Hornby has been enchanting enthusiasts and collectors alike, creating a vast and vibrant model kingdom that continues to inspire generations.

## The Genesis of a Toy Empire

The story of Hornby begins with Frank Hornby, a brilliant inventor and entrepreneur. In 1901, he founded a small company in Liverpool, England, with the humble aim of producing metal toy construction sets. Little did he know that his modest venture would blossom into a global empire.



### Hornby Book of Model Railways by Chris Ellis

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 13541 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 517 pages



Hornby's first major success came with the launch of Meccano in 1908, an innovative construction system that allowed users to build an array of

intricate models. The success of Meccano led Hornby to expand into the world of model railways, introducing his first 00 gauge model train in 1920.

## **The Birth of Hornby Dublo**

In 1938, Hornby made another bold move, launching the Hornby Dublo range of model railways in the larger 0 gauge scale. Dublo quickly gained popularity among collectors and enthusiasts, who were captivated by its realistic detailing and impressive scale.

The Hornby Dublo range continued to grow and evolve over the years, becoming one of the most popular and enduring model railway systems in the world. Its iconic models, such as the Duchess of Hamilton steam locomotive and the Merchant Navy Class 350 diesel, remain highly sought after by collectors today.

## **The Golden Age of Model Railways**

The post-war years marked a golden age for Hornby and the world of model railways. The company expanded its range of models, introduced innovative features, and reached new heights of popularity. In 1964, Hornby even produced a model railway set that was featured in the James Bond film "Goldfinger," further cementing its place in popular culture.

Hornby's success was not limited to the United Kingdom. The company exported its models to countries around the world, becoming a global force in the model railway industry. Its iconic models, such as the Princess Elizabeth steam locomotive and the Deltic diesel, became symbols of the hobby and inspired countless young enthusiasts.

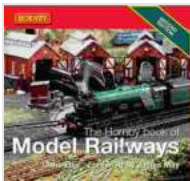
## **Modern Era and Legacy**

In recent years, Hornby has continued to adapt and innovate, keeping pace with the changing needs of model railway enthusiasts. The company has introduced new technologies, such as digital control and sound effects, while remaining faithful to the classic designs that have made its models so enduring.

Today, Hornby remains one of the world's leading manufacturers of model railways, with a vast range of models in various scales and gauges. The company's legacy extends far beyond its products, as it has played a vital role in shaping the hobby of model railways and inspiring generations of enthusiasts.

Hornby of Model Railways is a story of innovation, passion, and enduring legacy. From its humble beginnings in a small Liverpool workshop to its position as a global powerhouse in the model railway industry, Hornby has captured the imaginations of countless model railway enthusiasts for over a century.

With its iconic models, innovative technologies, and unwavering commitment to quality, Hornby continues to be the undisputed king of model railways. Whether you are a seasoned collector or a newcomer to the hobby, Hornby offers a world of miniature marvels that will transport you to a realm of wonder and inspire your imagination.



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