

A CHOPPER ON THE TABLE

Chopper :- small hand axe, a person or thing that cuts or chops, a device for interrupting electric current, a type of bicycle or motorcycle with high handlebars, an informal name for a helicopter is what the encyclopaedia says.

People of a certain age who frequented railway stations in the late 50s and early 60s wearing short trousers possibly with a duffle bag or some such containing some egg sandwiches would have a different take on this word. To them it would be an English Electric type 1 locomotive later to be widely known as a Class 20.

Lockdown loco number 2

Bought off Ebay (other sites are available) as a part built G1 kit including all the parts to finish. Somehow my bid for this item was the highest and I became the owner of this collection of bits.

When it arrived it was a motley selection of bits, some assembled, to represent a class 20 and some not even for a class 20. I don't know if Eric Morecambe was a G1 enthusiast but to misquote him this loco had "all the right bits but not necessarily in the right places". A nickel silver and white metal collection of bits gave me hours of "fun" unsoldering parts, knocking out dents and then reassembling them into a reasonable representation (in my view) of one of these locos.

I have finished it as D8050 which was sent to Sheffield Darnall in March 1961. Then to Immingham, subshedded at Frodingham virtually inside the steelworks at Scunthorpe. Mixed freight and raw materials for the steelworks were the trains they worked around Northern Lincolnshire.

I have fitted running lights (LEDs), radio control and a sound unit inside and it runs from a 14.4 volt pack of rechargeable cells.

All in all a pleasant couple of months of lockdown. Watch out for lockdown loco number 3!!!



