

Jig-built 23ft signal ladder kit

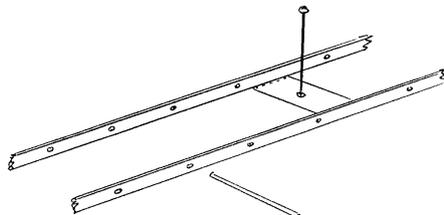
Flat side stiles
Round rungs
In-built jig assembly
**Ideally suited for
resistance soldering**

**With arched-over top
for the LNWR and
lampman's platform for
other companies**

Basic signal laddering varied little on the prototype, usually being made of two flat bars set 12" apart, with round rungs at 10" or 11" centres. Ladders were braced to the post at intervals, to prevent movement when being climbed.

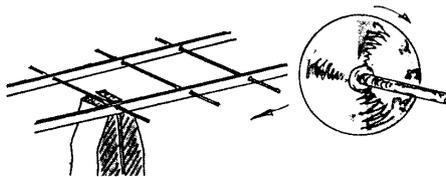
ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

To avoid mistakes, build the ladder to its full length, and cut it to size at the fitting stage. The jig incorporated in the ladder fret helps to keep the ladder aligned whilst the rungs are being soldered in place. Before removing the ladder and jig from the fret, clear the rung holes to suit the 23swg nickel silver wire supplied. A no.72 (0.65mm) drill will suffice, or preferably a five-sided cutting broach. The holes are deliberately etched undersize to prevent failure in production and to give a fine fit to the wire.



Fold up the two side stiles with the half-etched lines on the inside, and pin the whole assembly to a balsa block, using the holes in the five jig spacers.

Lightly tin the outer edges of the ladder. Straighten some nickel silver wire between finger and thumb, tin it, then cut pieces to length, just over the width of the ladder. Thread them through the holes, two or three at a time, and solder them in place from the outside. Repeat the process at the other end of the assembly, and so on until the middle is reached. It is most important to work from alternate ends as work proceeds, so that the heat from the soldering iron is dissipated along the ladder's length, eliminating any tendency to twist.



Remove the ladder and jig from the balsa block, and tidy up the rung ends using a minidrill and slitting disc. Hold the rungs in pliers as shown to avoid damage. The vibration from the drill is most useful, as it will shake apart any poorly soldered joints! Finally, cut the jig free using a piercing saw or a craft knife on a firm hardwood surface. The slitting disc may be used, but take great care not to damage any rungs.

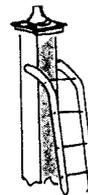
If required, establish the platform handrail stanchion positions from prototype photographs, as they do vary a great deal. Drill the landing perimeter at the chosen intervals with a no.72 drill, and insert scale 3' to 4' lengths of wire (no more than 0.6mm diameter) into each hole, from below, with a short L turned on the

bottom of each one. A quick solder joint on each one will fix them in place, then they can be aligned by eye, and a handrail of similar brass wire fixed around, one stanchion at a time. Finally, trim off all excess wire.

Platform/ladder configurations:



LNWR



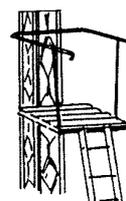
GNR



GER



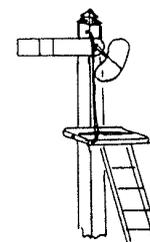
GWR



LSWR



MR



LB&SCR

Note that the LNWR, LB&SCR and also the NER usually had the ladder at the front of the post.

If present, solder the platform to the signal post. Cut the ladder to length, then solder it to the post or platform, and the signal baseplate.

Use the strips from the centre of the ladder fret to make bracing struts. Check their height and number with photographs. The ladder end joints should be on the outside of the stiles, and never exactly level with a rung.

PAINTING

After priming, paint the ladder black, white, bauxite or grey according to the prototype specification. Black and grey ladders often had the bottom 4' painted white.

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