

MT236

GWR Dean-Churchward wagon vacuum brake gear (2 sets)

Includes levers, v-hangers and safety loops

The Dean-Churchward wagon hand brake was developed from the Thomas patent brake first used on the GWR in 1897, and was intended to allow the brakes to be applied from either side of the wagon, no matter which side they might be fitted - this at a time when the majority of wagons had brakes on one side only. The Thomas brake was geared and

driven by a shaft fitted across one end of the wagon, with a crank-handle at each end. Which did indeed mean that the brake could be applied from either side - provided you kept in mind which side you were on, and hence which way to wind the handle to put the brakes 'on'.

The Dean-Churchward design kept the cross-shaft but used a pair of weighted levers rather than crank-handles, with a link to a side-lever to apply the brake and a ratchet and pawl to keep it on. Later versions of the design used a series of cranks, links and levers to apply the brake, which meant that they could be used with vacuum-fitted wagons and vehicles of any wheelbase. In 1909, following the requirement for the brake-handle to be always to the right when the wagon was viewed from the side, the design was modified to a 'cross corner' variant with twin brackets and short shafts at each end rather than the single handed shaft of the original design.

This fret provides a wide selection of shaft brackets, weighted levers, ratchets, cranks and brake shoes to facilitate the modelling of many variants of the D-C gear for fitted wagons. The use of a reference photograph is strongly recommended to guide in the correct choice of parts, as there

are a great number of possible combinations. Early (Armstrong-Dean) and later (Churchward) pattern clasp brake blocks are provided. The kit is biased toward the Dean vacuum brake with moving cylinder (our part MT339) as fitted to wooden V4/5 'Mink' vans (Cooper-Craft) and Fruit and Fish wagons, but an alternative actuating crank (BC4 on the fret) for the later versions with a conventional moving-piston vacuum cylinder is provided for use with vehicles like the Ratio 'Mogo' and later ventilated vans, banana vans, etc. Use the Ratio plastic vacuum cylinder as supplied in their kit or our part UC012.

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