

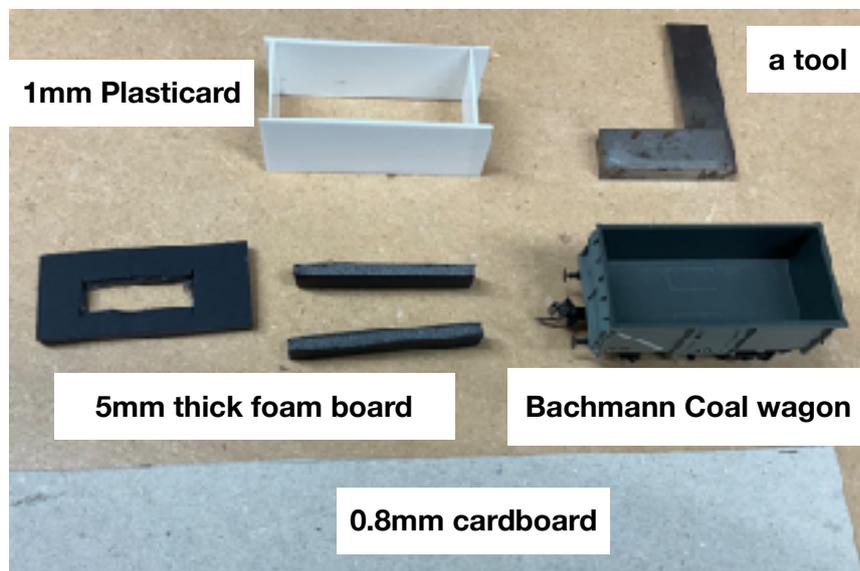
Making Coal Wagon Loads for OO Scale Wagons

The inside of the Coal Wagon measures 30mm x 64mm and is 19mm deep.
Cut a piece of foam board to the exact inside (30x64).
Cut a hole in the middle of this piece to make it easier to get in and out.

Cut two strips of foam board 10mm by about 55mm.
Using (Evostik) PVA wood glue the two strips were glued on their edges in order to raise up the base from the bottom of the wagon.

Cut pieces of cardboard to form a base for the coal. I cut pieces for each load 58x27mm, 52x24mm, 47x21mm, 42x18mm, 37x15mm & 32x12mm.

Using PVA glue these in a pile each centred on the one below and then glue the whole pile on top of the foam board. Leave to set.



I created a frame out of Plasticard in which to assemble the load. The inside of this needs to be exact at 30mm x 64mm and about 25mm deep. The two end pieces were exact, the two side pieces about 70mm long. I marked a line on this 19mm from the bottom. The coal would need to be a millimetre or so below that line.

I glued the Plasticard with Revell Liquid glue for plastics. The Plasticard and cardboard bases (when dried) gave a guide for this. The glue has a few seconds when the plasticard can be slid about but then sets fairly quickly, remove from the board former before they all get stuck.

For the coal I used Specialist Aggregates Limited 5527 Mainline Coal (OO/HO)

When everything was dry the coal base was inserted in the plasticard former and the coal poured on carefully in the middle and gently pushed to the corners and edges. It needs to be done so that all the black and grey board does not show, the pile looks natural, and at the edges is not above the line marked.

I then used some diluted PVA with a very little bit of (Fairy) washing up liquid well mixed in. This was carefully poured from the middle and then towards the corners.

I left it for a minute or so and then used a tool (something metal is good, but a piece of wood cut to shape about 50x25 and deeper than the former might have been easier) to gently push the gooey load free of the former.
The edges of the load were carefully tidied up and it was left to thoroughly dry.



I did all the messy bits on an old, dirty piece of Plasticard. It was then easy to wipe off the goo with some kitchen roll.

A completed load and a wagon with a load in place.

