

London Transport Service Vehicles in Miniature – July 2004 update.

By Clive Greedus



Whereas bus spotters just visited garages, those of us interested in service vehicles would search for other London Transport premises in a fascinating process of discovery. In this 1961 scene we've really hit the jackpot, for parked next to offices are 939F, a Ford E83W Utlecon personnel carrier, 1228F, a brand new Ford 307E 7cwt van, 1110AS, Austin LD01 van and an earlier Austin, 905AS, a K4 bolster lorry used by the building department.

“Canterbury Miniature Commercials” Austin K4 dropside lorry

This kit is very similar to the Bedford, but the windscreen problem is best dealt with by cutting a piece of clear acetate to fit on the outside, and then painting the edges. It's a fiddly task of trial and error, best aided with tweezers and emery board (after the wife has done her nails). Bostick solvent free adhesive is a good choice here as it doesn't attack paintwork, and becomes transparent when it dries. Afterwards some Milliput filler can be used to fill the join with the roof. The weakest aspect of the cab is the side lights on the mudguards, but fortunately an easy remedy is to fit modified sidelights from the Coopercraft Bedford ML kit. There, I told you those parts would be useful! The end result is truly evocative of Parsons Green, the works and building depot of London Transport, before the Thames Traders took over.

“R. Parker” Ford 307E van

A super little model in a similar format to the “John Day” kit of the earlier Ford van, but including the steering wheel, and incorporating quarter lights and wipers moulded to the body. Easy peasy and nothing to add except a spot light, and wing mirrors from Taylor Precision Models.