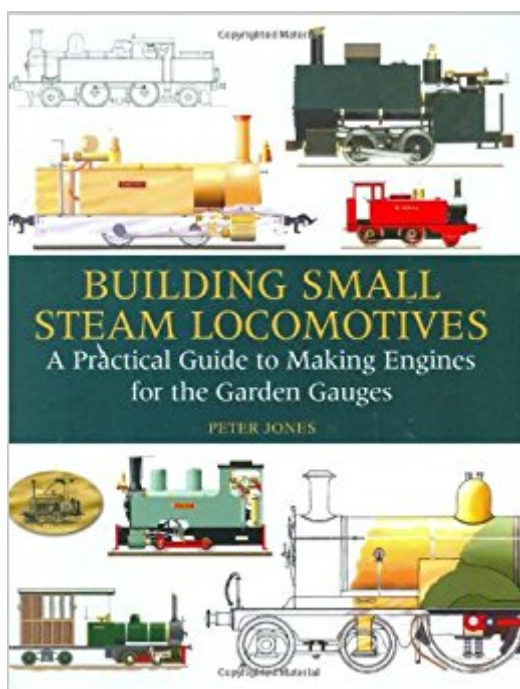


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Building Small Steam Locomotives: A Practical Guide To Making Engines For Garden Gauges



Synopsis

If you have an ambition to build a small live steam locomotive, but are daunted by the skills required, then this book is for you. Written in his clear and encouraging style, Peter Jones demystifies the whole process for those with little or no previous experience. Contents include: An explanation of terms; Basic metalworking processes; Step-by-step project guides; Machining; Boilermaking; Painting; and Finishing. Fully illustrated throughout with color photographs and drawings, and including appendices of suppliers and societies, this is an invaluable work for the railway modeler.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Jones has been addicted to railways, and modelling them, for as long as he can remember. In 1949 he took his first hesitant steps in garden railways, in 16mm scale running on 0 gauge track. He began an apprenticeship in modelling that has led to his extensive work in the railway scene. Peter has written widely on the subject, including a long-running column in Garden Railway magazine. His previous book, Practical Garden Railways, was also published by Crowood in 2006. Peter has his own website at www.comptondown.co.uk.

I build, and operate larger live steam locomotives. Many years ago an article appeared in Model Railroader magazine with the idea of using dry ice instead of steam. This book helped with ideas for valving, and operating small steamers. The dry ice concept allows one to operate indoors with a measure of safety. This book, in it's own way, helps make it all possible. Overall, a good read. Otis

This book is the jack of all trades, not really master of anything. As a book shelf book, it's nice. Lots of pictures. I'm sure when the kids get older they'll enjoy looking at it. As a builders reference, it's a nightmare. This book is a mish-mash of several small ideas about building live steam... stuff. There's a few machining tips and tricks here and there, the occasional drawing, and two paragraphs on valve gear. Nothing is in any particular order. It advertises that it's a step-by-step project guide. I couldn't build anything out of this book if I was a master machinist. Most of the drawings with dimensions are scattered. A lot of vital information is just... not there. Last big no-no; hydrotesting. If you build something which will be using high pressure or superheated steam, HYDROTEST IT. He mentioned this test once, in the appendices under the "Insurance" section. There are a few other spots in the book where he brings up steam and air testing. If you build a boiler, don't hydrotest it and immediately go to a steam test, a failed test is going to cause injury or worse. This should be made very clear.

If you have dabbled G scale and have some moderate machining, brazing, and silver soldering skills (and equipment), "Building Small Steam Locomotives: A Practical Guide to Making Engines for Garden Gauges", will fill your mind full of wonderful projects that you can accomplish in a few weekends and be very proud of. There-in also sits the only problem with this book. It addresses a very niche type of beginner. If you want to build the engines in Jones' book, you will need a desktop lathe and some practiced skill. Jones falls into the "Adobe Syndrome" a bit - the practice of introducing basic concepts at a beginner level, but then requiring skills beginners wouldn't typically have. But I gave it four stars? While Jones may have missed the mark in practicality and applicability, he more than made up for it with an honest, entertaining, engaging and clear writing style. Couple that with excellent photography and "Building Small Steam Locomotives" is an inspiring read. While I may have doubt that most readers will actually build Jones' locomotives, I have little doubt that readers will enjoy this book, be happy to have it on the shelf, and move closer to actually building and modeling live steam G gauge. And it will influence the beginners choices in a positive manner. I'm off to price lathes. Oh - Jones does make an excellent recommendation that I believe adds immensely to his work. He suggest the reader first build a Ruby before really going on in the book. It's excellent advice. A Ruby is a live steam locomotive kit that can be assembled in a weekend by a novice. The process will teach even a complete beginner the logic, function and terminology of live steam systems. Plus, the Ruby can be the basis of a project from the book. Your favorite search internet engine can lead you to the Ruby. Great book!

If this is a subject, or a part of the home machining hobby you are considering, this book should be required reading. It is among one of best written on this topic. It makes very clear exactly what is required, as well as what can be accomplished in this endeavor. A precise step by step instruction guide with out being boring. It is delightful to read even if you never build a thing.

This book is a must for the model engineer who wants to build his own small live steam locomotives. The book is really nice with good photos and great layout. The author explains the basics of model locomotive construction in small scale and presents several examples of his own locomotives. It is not a construction manual so you'll have to purchase separate drawings if you want to build your own locomotive models.

If you have ever seen a small steam locomotive in operation, found out that the owner built it, and thought "Gee, that looks like fun, but I could never do that..."....this book IS for you. Mr. Jones has an entertaining style, decades of experience, the ability to instruct, and a willingness to share. He also keeps you focused so that a project does not become overwhelming and unsatisfactory. Even if your plans are just dreams, you will gain much knowlege and appreciation as to what makes these little beauties go. Many fine pictures to keep your inspirations under a full head of steam!!!

I found this book not to be a complete step by step guide to building a particular steam engine, but is extraordinarily helpful in understanding how engines are built [which is very easy] and how to go about making an engine of your own design, which can easily be accomplished by going through the basics. Highly recommended for the handy home machinist.

The book was written very well, and good referance if your building an English Garden Train.It shows one way to start with a Mamod (made in England) engine that is a american style and convert it to the english square type. There is a lot of good materral in the book, just not what I needed.

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