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First of all I must thank John for making this trip to the "wilds" of Graubünden, which has enabled me to get a better idea of the area I am modelling. San Giacomo is a direct replacement for Bimblebahn, much of which now rests on the Test Valley Council tip! Via Mala (dv) is still going strong although due for retirement at the end of 2001. It is not planned to consign it to the Test Valley tip!

It is true that both John and David "talked" [translation – bullied (JJ)] me into going for the southern end of the line, but the inspiration to build another model came from an article in Bemo Post 18 and the MIBA magazine where some German modellers have built a line based on Alp Grüm with an overall size of 4m x 1.2m.

I worked out that I could build a layout of similar size in my garage/workshop (no car has seen the inside of it for 17 years!). So San Giacomo came into being. As John has already

said I had the plans from Schweizerische Bauzeitung of October 1927 that show San Giacomo at the top of the series of loops etc. on the climb up from Mesocco. I reckoned that on a model it would be better to have the station on the middle level, allowing trains to be seen approaching or leaving in two directions.

I laid the trackwork and built the basic scenery and waited for John's report. Having seen this and the considerable number of photographs and other information he brought back I have been able to complete the scenic side. He also gave me a copy of the latest PTT timetable for the area from which I have worked out the sequence timetable which we shall run.

At the time of writing San Giacomo will make its first public appearance at the Sussex Assoc. of Model Railway Clubs Exhibition at Crawley on March 3rd/4th 2001. Perhaps we shall see you there!

Philip Elwin

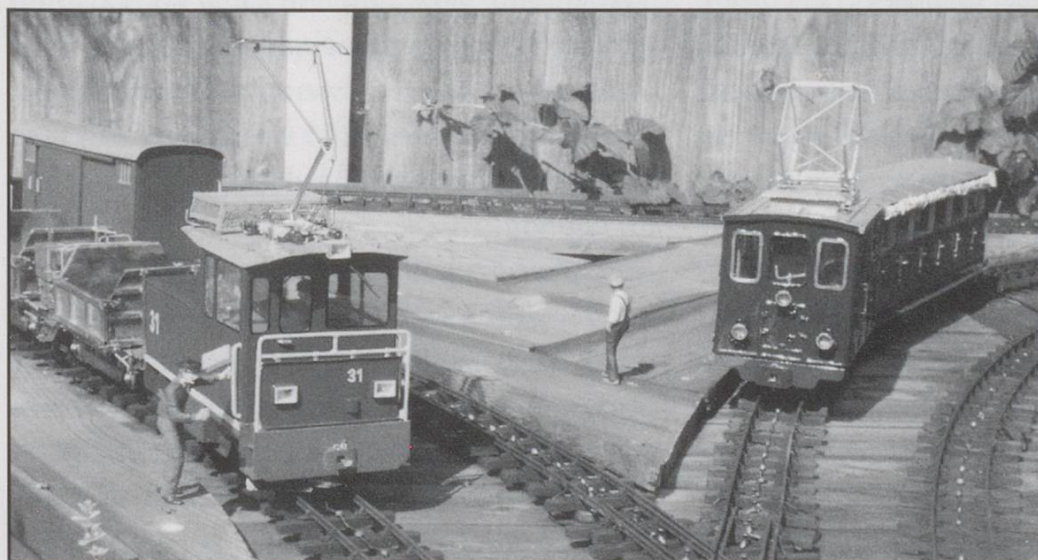
INSPIRED BY SWISS EXPRESS

A few years ago a very interesting drawing was published in Swiss Express showing pre-production proposals for new He 2/2 type rack locomotives for the Wengernalpbahn.

During subsequent visits to the WAB I was able to take some photographs of Nos. 31 and 32 in traffic and used these along with the drawing to make a model to run on my 32mm gauge 1/19 scale garden railway. I had already built a model of No. 17 based on one of the

older series of locos to experiment with rack systems, as a result of which both are now adhesion machines !!

I thought that you might like to know how useful the drawing was, I can not claim to have built a 'scale' model but have achieved a good likeness despite having had to make a few practical adjustments. The use of 32mm gauge is a matter of economy, details of the construction of this battery powered model were published in Garden Rail magazine for April if anyone is interested.



WAB Nos 17 and 31 in 1/19 scale, battery powered in the garden.
Photo: Philip Elwin