



Photo: Gareth Bayer

HISTORY

In the run up to the passing of the Energy Act in December 2013, which restricted carbon emissions from fossil fuel power stations, a number of electricity generating companies began modifying some or all of their boilers to burn imported wood pellets (one form of biomass) rather than coal. The first to make the switch was Drax, the UK's largest power station, but other rail-served locations followed, including Fiddlers Ferry, Ironbridge and Lynemouth, in some cases a last nod to a cleaner future before being switched off for good.

Initially Drax received biomass pellets in unmodified bogie coal hoppers, but as the fuel could be ruined if it rained – very likely with British weather – a more permanent solution was required. DB Schenker, Freightliner and GB Railfreight all converted various existing wagons with new opening roofs as prototypes, with only GBRf and partner VTG committing to an upgrade programme for their IIA fleet. Drax later went on to order its own purpose-built wagons, while more recently GBRf has also purchased a custom fleet for the Lynemouth flow.

The first GBRf biomass hopper, IIA No. 37 70 6955 273-7, was outshopped from WH Davis, Langwith Junction, in December 2009, and featured two long pneumatically-operated doors that opened and closed automatically for loading, preventing water egress and dust blowoff during transit.

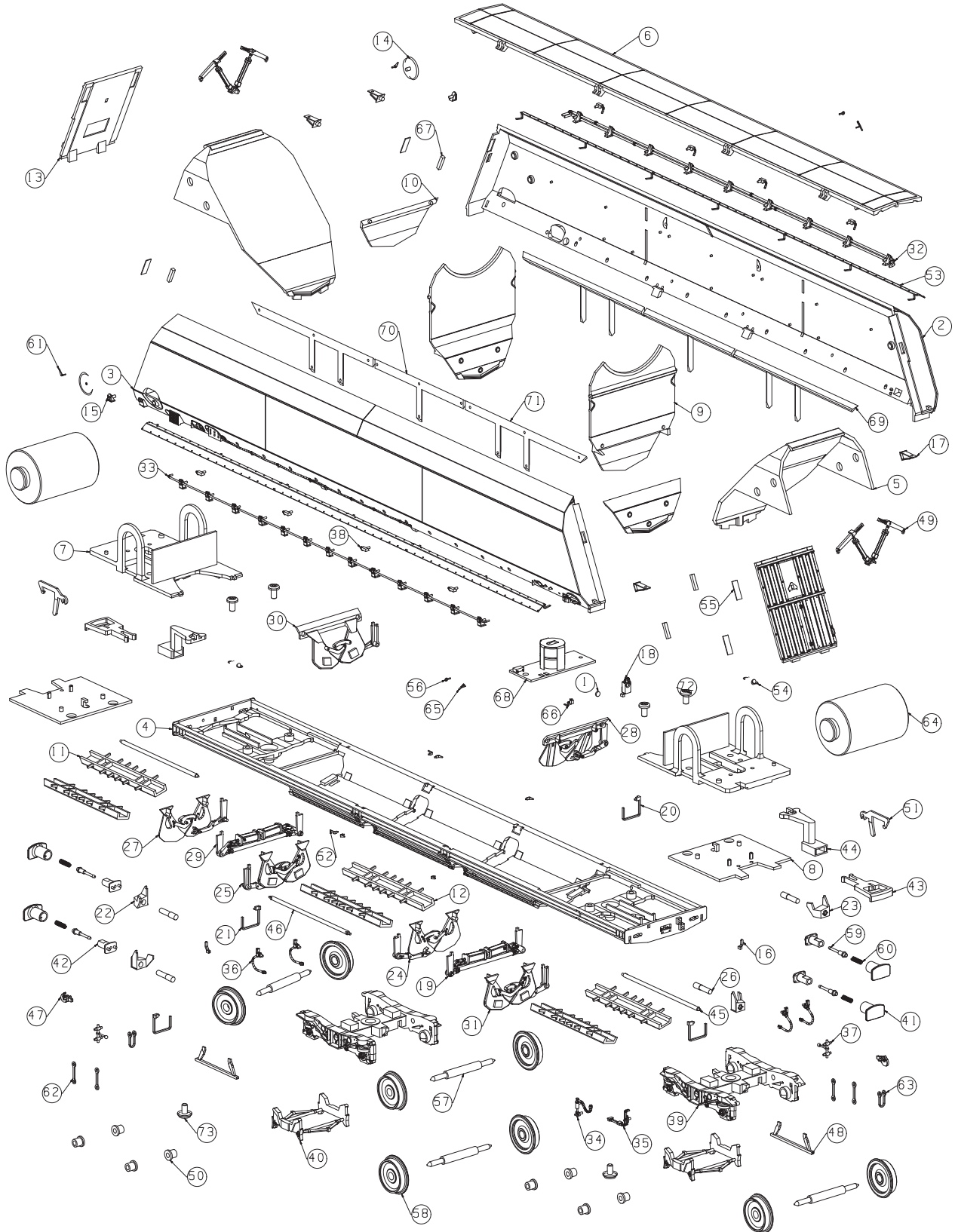
Just over one hundred examples were built or recalled to WH Davis from earlier batches for conversion, all from the 37 70 6955 222-288/305-352 batches, with the last being modified in mid-2013. Wagons in the 200 series were delivered prior to First Group selling GBRf to Europorte and included First, GBRf and VTG branding, while the remainder (300 series) were constructed afterwards and sport only VTG logos (repositioned on the left of the body) and GBRf branding.

While Drax is by far the largest consumer of biomass still operating, engorging itself on train after train of Drax's own hoppers and GBRf IIAs, Ironbridge also took regular deliveries in GBRf's converted hoppers until it closed in late 2015. Meanwhile, the imported pellets arrive at a number of different ports, with Tyne Dock being the most important, with Liverpool Bulk Terminal and Portbury, near Bristol, also contributing significant quantities and bringing these wagons to the South West, Midlands and Trans-Pennine routes. GBRf Class 66/7s are most common up top, although the operator's small fleet of Class 60s are regulars on the Tyne Dock-Drax circuit.

Accurascale wishes to thank the following individuals for their assistance during the research phase: Les Bryant (WH Davis), Ernie Puddick and Andy Le May (Touax Rail), GB Railfreight, CEMEX Europe and Mark Saunders.

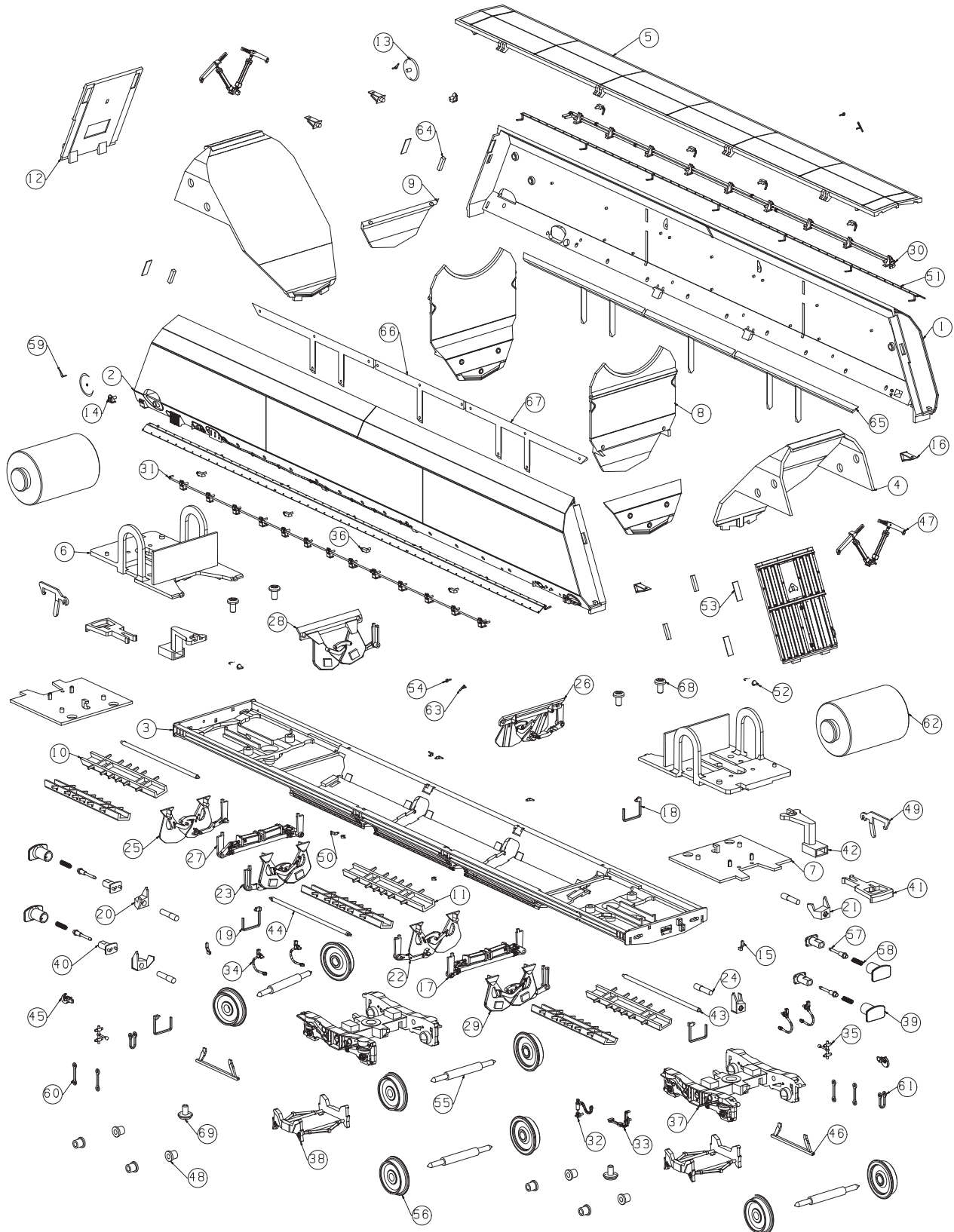
Wagon with flashing tail lamp

When making spare part enquiries, please quote the part number ACC-IIABIO-xxx, where xxx is the part number shown on the diagram below.

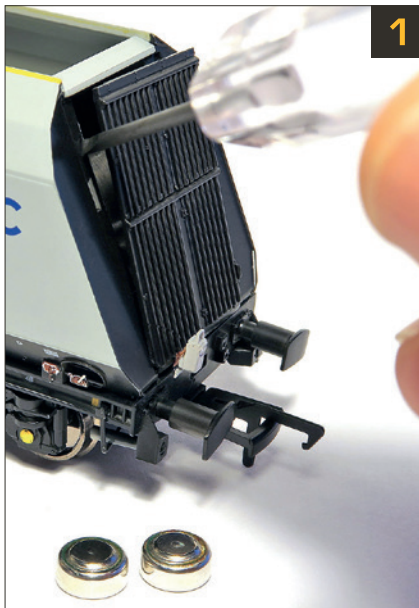


Wagon without flashing tail lamp

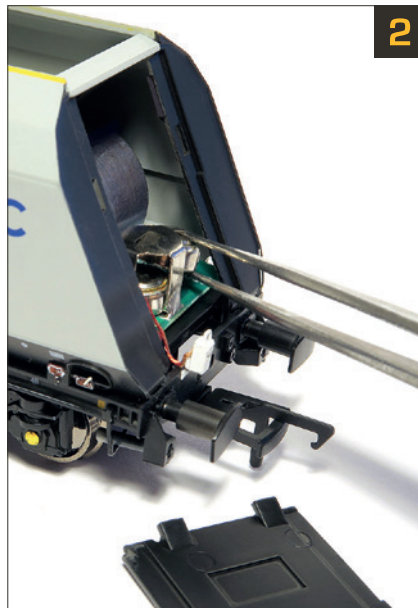
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Flashing tail lamp function



Gently lift the end plate of the wagon by using a fingernail, screwdriver or credit card. This is fixed by magnets so only a small amount of force is necessary.



Insert LR41 battery plus (+) side down. Ensure it is slotted correctly between the two pick-ups, then replace wagon end plate.



Switch lamp on/off using by passing the magnetic wand by the side of the wagon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accurascale works closely with leading railway experts and factories utilising cutting edge manufacturing methods to produce accurate and finely detailed ready-to-run scale models. As a company run by railway modellers for railway modellers we are committed to achieving the highest standards at all stages of production, from initial research of prototypes right through to final delivery to the customer.

Please take care when removing the product from the protective packaging and when handling as it contains delicate parts. The packaging should be retained to safely store the product when not in use. This product is not suitable for children under 14 years old.

This product has passed an extensive quality control process and is supplied with a 12-month manufacturing defect warranty from the date of purchase. Product failures due to, but not limited to abuse, accidental damage, improper maintenance, improper use and/or operation, mishandling, misuse, or modifications are not covered by the warranty.

During use this product may occasionally pick up fibres, fluff, pet hair, etc. which can become entangled around the axles. This can be removed by using a small tweezers.

Avoid running the product on track laid on carpet or other unprepared surfaces. Use a soft brush to remove dust and lint from the exterior of this model. Do not use abrasive pads, detergents, soaps or solvents as they may damage paintwork and plastic surfaces. Take care not to accidentally damage fine detail parts.

For warranty and spare parts enquiries, please email support@accurascale.co.uk or contact Accurascale using the details below.

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