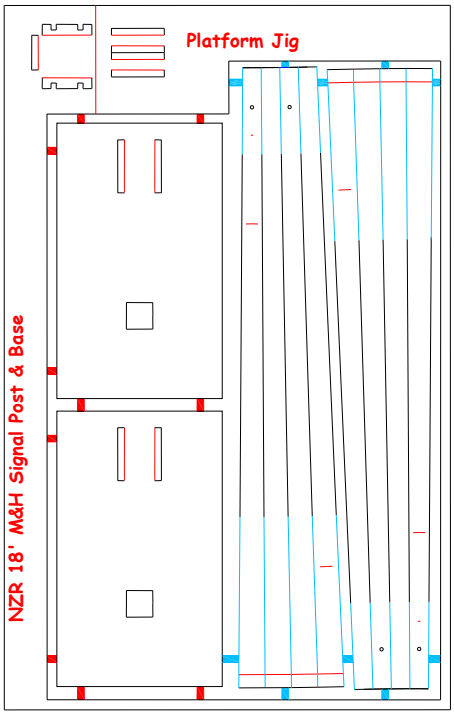
NZR M&H Signal post instructions, tips and tricks

These NZR signal posts were designed to compliment the New Zealand Finescale Single and Double Arm M&H Semaphore Signals kits KS001 and KS003 and the detail etch M&H Bracket Semaphore Parts ES011
Each post has half etched markers for ground level, the operating handle centre, the platform level and the hand rail
The base is designed overly large and is intended to be cut back and buried to the ground level mark on the bottom in the post

NZR 18' M&H Signal Post and Base



This fret contains 2 single signal posts, 2 bases and a fold up jig for the platform

1. Remove the posts from the fret and clean up the mating edge
2. The posts are best folded progressively into a square. This can normally be done with just fingers then a final squeeze with pliers.
3. Check for square by eye, the top of the post should fit nicely around a piece of K&S 3/32 square tube and the bottom of the post fits into the base. Adjust by squeezing across the corners of the post.
4. Remove the base from the fret and clean up the attachment tabs, don't worry too much about these as the base is designed to be trimmed and buried into your scenery. Bend up the ladder mounting tabs by placing over small block, like a match stick and pushing the tabs down with a knife.
5. Make up a jig to get the post and base square and true using an MDF block and a length of K&S 3/32 square brass tube (make this about 150mm long so you can use it for either the 18' or 23' foot posts). Drill a hole into the block for the tube and check for square in each direction. Mark out and glue on four wooden guides to ensure the base is equally spaced around the square tube. Use some metal blackening on the bottom of the square tube to ensure it doesn't end up soldered inside your post.
6. Push the post up through the base, it should be a tight fit by the time it gets to the bottom, the square hole in the base may need a little light filing. Use the jig for final alignment then solder the post to the base. *Attaching the base at this point lets you solder the post without getting your fingers burnt*
7. Solder the top and bottom mitred corners, then working from the guide tabs on the chamfered corners run a fillet of solder along the chamfer, work slowly and all around each corner to avoid any warping
8. Clean up all the solder with a file and it is done.

Mounting the Finial
As the post is only made of 10 thou sheet thus the spigot on the finial is very lose. To help you centre this in the top of the post I recommend a short length (<5mm) of the K&S 3/32 square tube

Mounting the Ladder
The ladder mounting tabs are designed to allow the side rails of the ladder to pass through the base and solder to the tabs. The rails can then be trimmed flush with under side of the base and the excess tabs can be filed away on top

Platform Jig

This is a helpful little extra for soldering up platforms out of Special Shape's brass bars using 1/32 square and 1/32 x 3/32 rectangle bars.

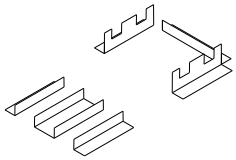


Fig. 1

The jig folds up with 4 guides for rectangle bars and 2 guides for the square bar as in Figure 1.
Use some chemical blackening on the whole jig to make sure it doesn't all end up soldered together.

3 pieces of 1/32 x 3/32 bar are inserted between the guides and butted up to the stop
2 pieces of 1/32 x 1/32 bar are inserted into the guide slots as in figure 2. All can then be soldered up being careful not to solder to the jig
Then either cut in place or mark the platform width at the half etched line, then remove and trim all the bars

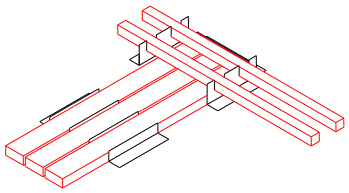
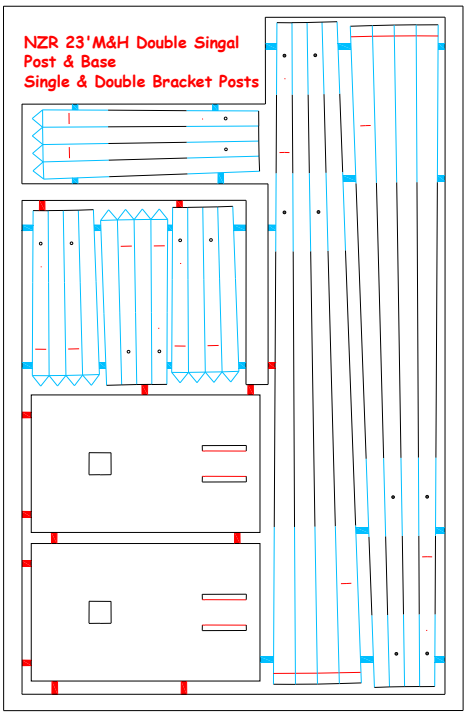
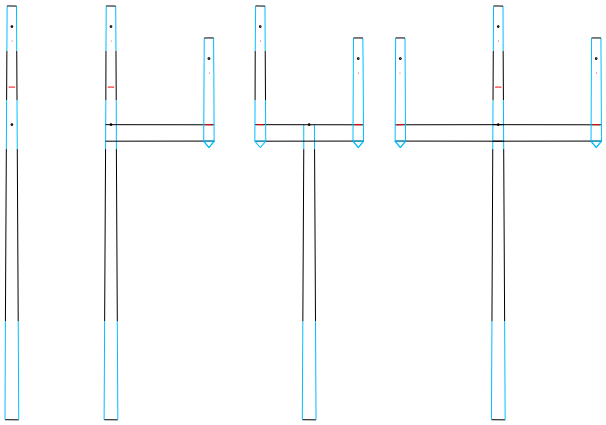


Fig 2.

NZR 23' M&H Double signal post & base
Single & Double bracket parts



This fret contains 2 double signal posts, 2 bases, 3 x 4'6" and 1x 6'6" double bracket posts
These parts provide enough parts either to build up:
2 double signals or
2 single bracket signals or
1 double bracket and 1 triple bracket signal



The construction instructions for the most part are the same as the single signal post, except when constructing the double bracket signals.
For the construction of the double bracket signals the top of the double post is cut at the bottom 0.5mm hole

Have a good time making signals and I hope all my pieces make the job a little simpler.