

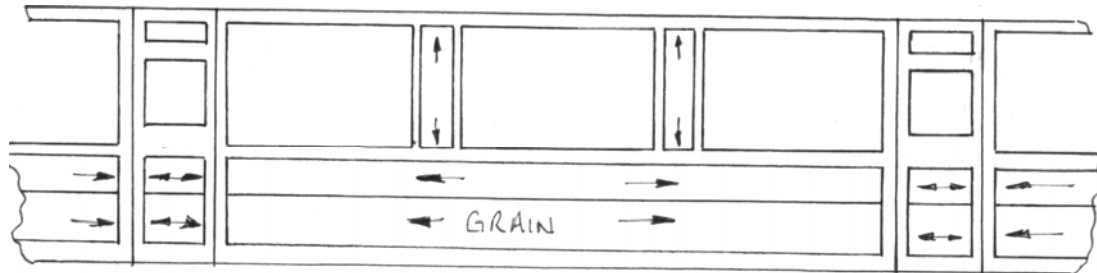
Tales from Barlow Works

Project Gresley

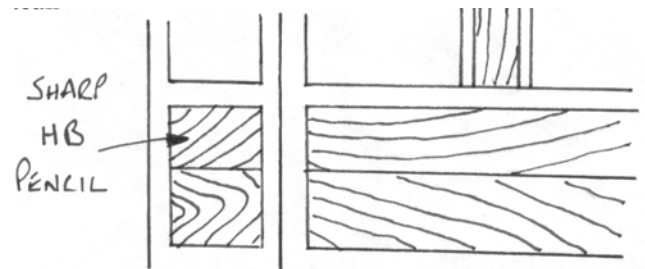
Part Eleven:- Painting and varnishing for teak

The real beauty of the Gresley coaches is the teak finish that they originally carried. Later they were painted in blood and custard and maroon liveries but this section deals with making a reasonable representation of the teak effect. It is a good idea to try this technique on a spare piece of side first if you can.

Before we can start on the teak effect the holes for the grab handles and door handles and the handrails will need to be drilled to the correct size, also the door stops if you are going to replace them.



The teak panels always had the grain running in the same direction, on the lower panels and lower doors the grain was horizontal and in the upper panels between the windows, upper guards doors and on the brake ends and coach ends it was vertical, indeed the LNER coach association says that the grain always ran from left to right (visit their excellent website at www.well-hill.demon.co.uk/lnerca for some fine pictures of finished coaches and interior detail). To represent the surface texture of the panels a fibre glass brush is used along the grain of the panel always moving in the same direction. These days I use surgical gloves when using a fibre glass brush as this stops a lot of the annoying strands of glass fibre sticking into your fingers. Take a sharp HB pencil and draw in the teak grain on the panels using photographs to get an idea of how the real grain goes. Finally use Ronseal satin teak varnish and a good brush and go over the individual panels in the same direction as the grain until the whole of the coach is covered. One feature of teak coaches is that some of the panels were darker than others and this effect can be reproduced simply by going over some panels again with the varnish.



Once we have reached this stage the transfers can be put on and the primrose lining put on the beading if required. Finally a coat of Ronseal clear satin varnish, preferably airbrushed on, will protect the finish and level everything off.

In the final section we will be doing the final detailing and finishing off.