

## Sandy River #19 from a Brass Kit or **Fools Rush In**

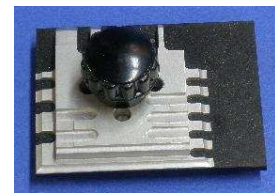
July 8, 2010: A year ago, a friend brought me the present of a box of brass parts that were apparently meant to end up as an HOn3 locomotive of indeterminate type. He bought them for a song at a flea market and I immediately felt sympathy for the original purchaser who clearly gave up in bitter defeat. My second response was how sad that this had to happen – the parts were so lovely. My third response was that I would never put myself in the same position.

Nevertheless, I model in HOn30 and those of us in that scale are lucky to find any commercial product at all, but a brass kit for Sandy River #19 seemed like manna from Heaven. The perpetrator of this product is Victor Models in England [<http://www.victorsmodels.co.uk/>], who makes more than one HOn30 kit and also some interesting kits in On30 as well.



I fretted for about a month then put the strain on my credit card. I also ordered a nice bending fixture and some resistance soldering equipment. Victor's taunts – and I'm sure discourages - potential customers by providing a download of the manuals for these kits. I printed these out before ordering, realizing as I read that they might as well have been written in Sanskrit. I understood few of the terms and none of the syntax. Well, I did want a stretch, didn't I?

Getting a package from overseas is always an experience, just because they do things differently there. It was exciting to look at the contents but comparing the kit parts with the instructions and photos provided, I had no inkling of a possible success. My favorite motto is "what man has done, man can do." I took out some brass shim stock to practice bending and soldering.



I have a nice bending fixture (photo above right) made by Kalama Precision Machine and sold by The Small Shop [[www.theshop.com](http://www.theshop.com)]. It's the only thing I have seen that can handle the intricacy of these kit parts. I am also armed with a variety of fluxes and solders of different melting temperatures, as well as a fine selection of hand tools, files, clamps and soldering irons.

I have read the instructions several times, marking sections I don't understand. I intend to get all the help I can. To mark the start of this project, I am taking the kit and tools to the next meeting of our NMRA/SER Division 15, to make public the beginning and to make it impossible for me to hide the success or failure of this venture. Updates will follow.

Joseph Norris