

Dingo Servo Mounts



Newsletter Summer 2024



Hi, once again, fellow modellers.

It's almost the summer solstice and the weather in the UK is still miserable.

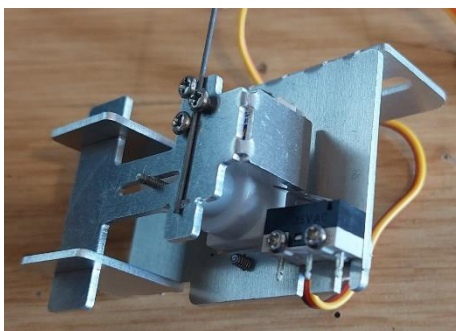
Let's hope the summer will improve at some point and we can get those garden railways running again.

In the meantime, I have now had my back surgery and it has been amazing to be able to walk again without such a lot of pain and difficulty.

I just need to take it easy for a while especially lifting heavy things, but hope to be back on shows again from the end of July.

On another note, I have managed to solve the issues with lasercutting. The company that went down has now restarted under a new name and with new backers, but with many of the original staff. I have already had a first order from the new company and prices look like being much the same.

1. An Update to the Signal Mount Ver 1A.

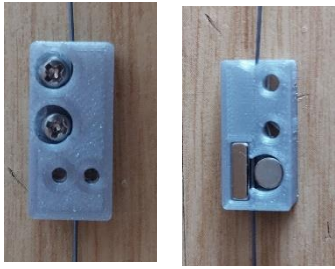


This mount has been around for quite a few years now and was crying out for an update. Modifications include a folded slider to operate the switch instead of the older standoff, Improved drive screw ideas as per the Mini mounts, fully slotted switch mounting to allow the switch to be assembled away from the mount and a general tidy up of tight spaces to make the mount easier to assemble.

Video here <https://youtu.be/pmMTnjHG7A8>

I am also working on a new magnet clip for this mount which will allow the signal actuator wire to be withdrawn and re-inserted without having to take the clip apart.

This is something that I have been repeatedly asked for and I think I've almost cracked it.



As you can see from the pictures there is a rectangular magnet next to a round magnet.

The idea is that as the actuator wire is pushed into the top hole it pushes the round magnet out slightly which then “rolls” to allow the wire to go all the way through.

Initial tests show that it grips fairly well with a 0.5mm piano wire, but not so well with non-ferrous wires.

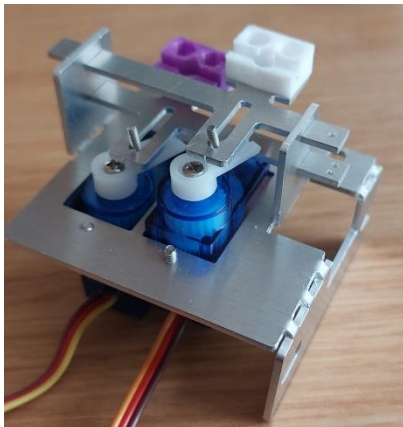
Video Here https://youtu.be/q10_iKUfGV0

I am still doing tests, but initially this is looking good.

The downside is that it is too long to use on the mini signal mounts, will have to give that some more thought to see if I can get this idea to work in a smaller footprint.

The revised signal mount which will be at Rev B will still accept the old magnets as well as the traditional 3 screw fixing.

These mounts will be available soon and the old Ver 1A will no longer be available once stocks have been depleted.



I am also working on re-imagining the old Dual Signal mount as well, especially to get rid of the rather labour intensive actuator wire clamps and make them more harmonious with the rest of our signal mounts, but that might be a while yet.

As you can see from this prototype, the unit will carry the standard 3 screw clamp or the traditional magnet clips

I have also worked at removing the play in these mounts by using the same drive mechanism from the mini range so that they will work “out of the box” with our “bouncy” boards and no modifications will be required.

2. DCC Interface



The first prototype boards have been delivered and I have built a couple to give to some friends for testing as I have never used DCC to operate accessories before. I am quite happy with the result so far and the board is quite small (33 x 33mm) and interfaces with our twin control boards as does the crossing gate sequencer.

3. Servo dilemma “again”

Hobby King have discontinued the HK15178 again and repeated emails to their wholesale department have not been answered as yet.



I have been casting around for something else and have just received a few samples from a company called FlashHobby who theoretically make servos as well.

The only analogue servo they make is a FH-8015 which is slightly smaller than the HK15178, but with comparable power. It comes in at around 8g rather than the 9g and the boss is the same size as the PHD 1370 A servos we supply for the mini range. It has some rather strange horns but it is not difficult to supply some 3D printed ones as I do for the minis.

Otherwise, it lines up quite well with screw holes etc in our mounts and I will report back once I have done some more testing.

Video here <https://youtu.be/l315fxZtr30>

In the meantime, we have good stocks of the Power HD 1900A and even the good old SG90 clones. I also still have a fairly good stock of the HK15178, but sadly think that once they are gone, they are gone.

4. Future developments

There never seems to be enough time in the day, the week or the month to get to all the designs running around in my head.

I am still working on a crossing barrier mount and there is more to do on the magnet clips as well.

I also have a request sitting in my inbox for a rotating ground signal mount which will be a derivative of the mini crossing gate mount, so apologies for the delay in this one.

Well I think that's all for this time

Enjoy the “summer” if you are in the northern hemisphere (sorry about those who aren't) and the next newsletter should be coming your way in September.

With Kind Regards

Dave