

Story Notes and Behind the Scenes at



No. 71 Twilight

I'm convinced that the Lego group are reading my mind! A bold statement. Evidence? I started thinking about this story a couple of years ago. Whilst I was thinking, 'wouldn't it be nice if Lego released a London double-decker bus.' Lo and behold, one duly appeared on the shelves!

I thought at first, the bus being creator size and not mini-figure size would be a problem. But I hadn't taken into account the Lego Group's careful thinking on creating a bus this size. It turned out that a larger sized bus had more space to work in. Obviously! Easier to take photographs & moving of mini-figures for example.

There was still several problems to sort out. Only one mini-figure could sit on a seat, unless you removed an arm from a mini-figure (sorry), in which case two figures could fit on one seat. Another problem was the sloping tile of the seats. Mini-figures kept sliding of them. I was thinking of using sticky dots on the seats, but then I couldn't be bothered with sticking them to the seats and then retrieving them afterwards. Too much hassle. In the end, I put up with the sliding of the figures and if the bus had to be moved, did it carefully and slowly.

As the story evolved in my mind, I thought it would be a challenge and something different to set images of the Lego bus onto black and white London double-decker bus photographs. The buses in the photographs, acted as a reference for me, when taking photographs of the Lego bus. Correct angles for example. There is a London double-decker bus in every photograph under the Lego bus in the story. (The photographs were tinted blue slightly to help create the twilight atmosphere).

Another problem was the lighting of the interior of the bus lower and upper decks. One of my other interests is model railways (on the back burner currently because of this comic), but I keep up with news in the hobby. Train-Tech here in the UK produce battery powered lighting strips for use inside OO gauge coaches. (See below). They are activated by movement and then stay lit for three or four minutes.

Perfect. No mucking around with keeping wires out of the way or pinning them down, in order to stop the lights moving. The strips were stuck to the underside of the bus roof with sticky dots. They proved to be very reliable and produced enough light without being too harsh and reflecting light off the bricks and mini-figures. The downside though is that they are very expensive, for me anyway.

I'm thinking of other sets now which I would like to use in future stories. Will I have to make them or will the Lego Group read my mind and release them? Only time will tell.

OO Gauge Automatic Coach Lighting

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These Automatic Coach Lighting Strips add lighting to coaches and multiple units. They are self contained and easy to fit with no wires, switch or pickups.

Each easy fit lighting strip is completely self contained with a built-in battery and five efficient LED lamps which realistically light the shortest Gresley to the latest Pendolinos! There is no need for any switch because the strip incorporates a small sensor which detects when the train moves and turns on the lights automatically. The lights stay on whilst the train is in motion, then after it stops keeps the lights on for a few minutes before turning them off so that temporary stops at stations or signals leaves the coach lit.

