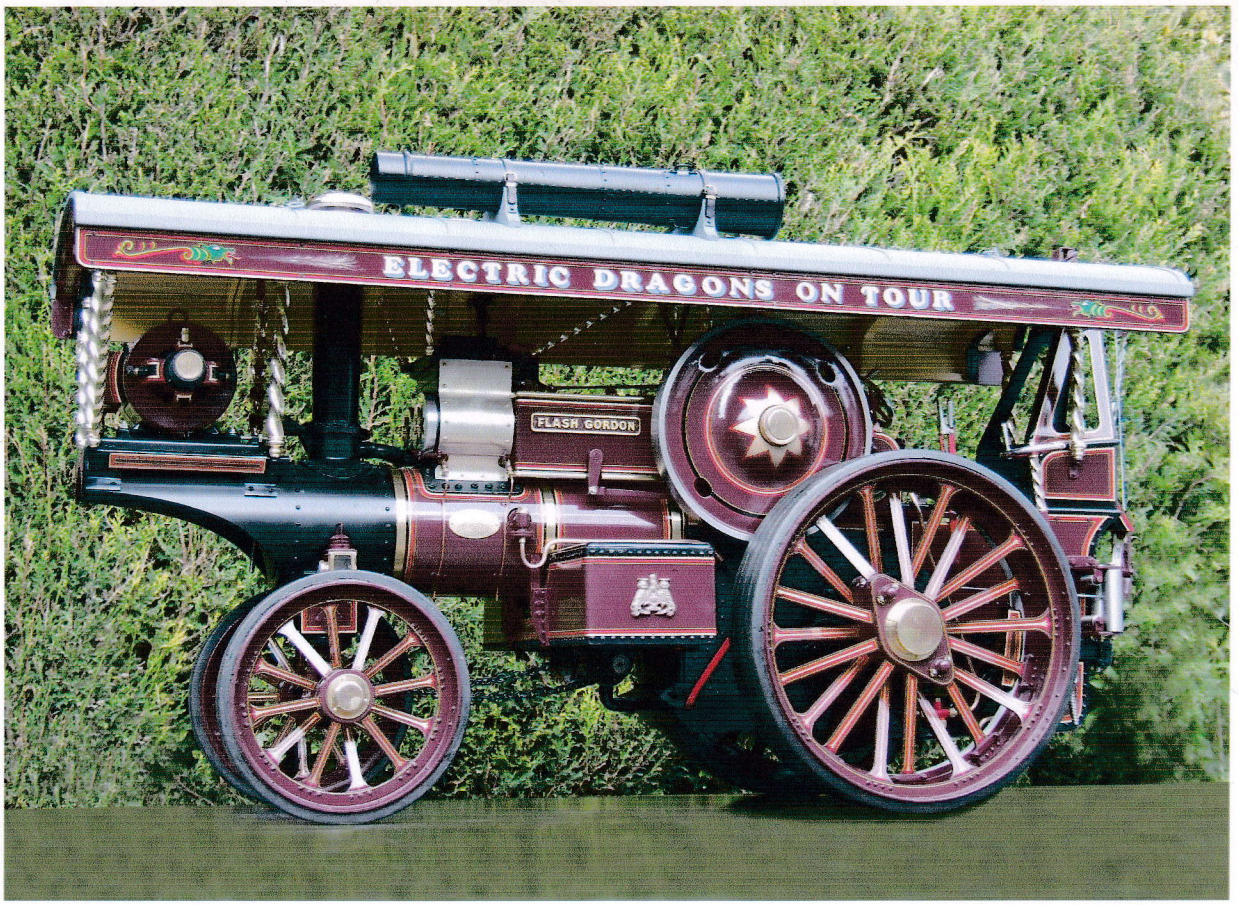
"Flash Gordon" is a scale model of a Fowler B6 road locomotive. Built to the scale of 2 in. + = 1 ft. the model represents a typical showman's example of what were known as the "Big Lion" class. The model carries the Fowler works-plate numbered 14847, the full-size example of which was built in 1920 for E Cox of Codnor, Derbyshire. Originally named "The Adjutant", 14847 does not appear to be amongst the present day surviving engines.



Construction of the model began in the mid nineteen-seventies when Bill Whittaker of Bolton purchased drawings and castings from a commercial supplier by the name of H R Plastow. Bill made steady progress on the road and gear wheels until he became involved in other model engineering projects. I suspect that the traction engine was abandoned in the early nineteen-eighties.
Bill died in 2002 and shortly afterwards I acquired the surviving parts of the model, many of which were in reasonable condition in spite of languishing for 20-plus years beneath Bill's workbench.
Most of the castings appeared to be present as were the full set of drawings. The latter however were in very poor condition and of little use.
I recommenced building in 2006 by which time H R Plaistow was no longer trading. The business was initially acquired by Stuart Models but has since been passed on again. As a result, I was unable to obtain new drawings required to complete the model. Most of the information therefore, has been sourced from full sized preserved examples and from surviving photographs of Fowler engines and their components. The incomplete model was first exhibited at Harrogate Model Engineering and modelling exhibition (2009).

