# Model Train Catalogue

Version 2.08E - 11/10/23

Exhibitors Edition

Copyright Model Train Catalogue - ©October 2023

# Index


| | Page(s) |
|---|---|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Installation | 1 |
| Stock Screen – Data Entry | 1 - 4 |
| Adding Pictures | 5 - 7 |
| Exporting Pictures | 8 |
| Importing Documents | 9 - 11 |
| - Add Documents | 10 |
| - Read Documents | 11 |
| Reports - Reports | 12 |
| Printing Options | 13 |
| Exporting Data | 14 |
| Reports - Exhibition List | 15 |
| - Selecting Items | 16 |
| - Preview or Print | 17 |
| - Exporting Data | 18 |
| - Archives | 19 |
| - Exporting from Archive | 20 |
| - Restore Archive | 21 |
| Reports - Self Named List | 22 |
| Maintenance | |
| Manufacturers/Makers | 23 |
| Stock Categories | 23 |
| Gauges | 24 |
| Locations | 24 |
| Self Named Fields | 25 |
| Self Named List - Capturing Data | 26 |
| Self Named Text | 27 |
| Backup and Restore | |
| Backup | 28 |
| Backup - Warning Messages | 29 |
| Restore Data | 30 |
| Screen Size | 31 |
| Licence Registration | 32 |
| The Quantity Box | 33 |
| Upgrading the Program | 33 |
| Using a Cloud or Network Drive for MTC data | 33 |
| Quick Tips | 34-36 |
| Regional Settings | 36 |


Errors and Omissions Excepted: every care has been taken to ensure that all information in this document is present and correct. If any error or omission is found, please let us know and it will be corrected as soon as possible after verification - email to: support@modeltraincatalogue.com.

# Introduction

This software is designed to maintain an inventory of model railway stock and produce reports, typically, for insurance valuation purposes. It is designed to run on Windows operating systems Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7/8, 8.1 and Windows 10.

The design of this software makes it impossible for it to carry any sort of virus. In case of difficulty email support@modeltraincatalogue.com for assistance.

This Exhibitor's Edition uses the original Model Train Catalogue program as its basis and adds the ability to list off stock that is being taken to an exhibition or other function. It provides a valuation of the stock selected, a check list when packing up stock to ensure that you return with the stock taken and, optionally, a list of Digital Loco addresses.

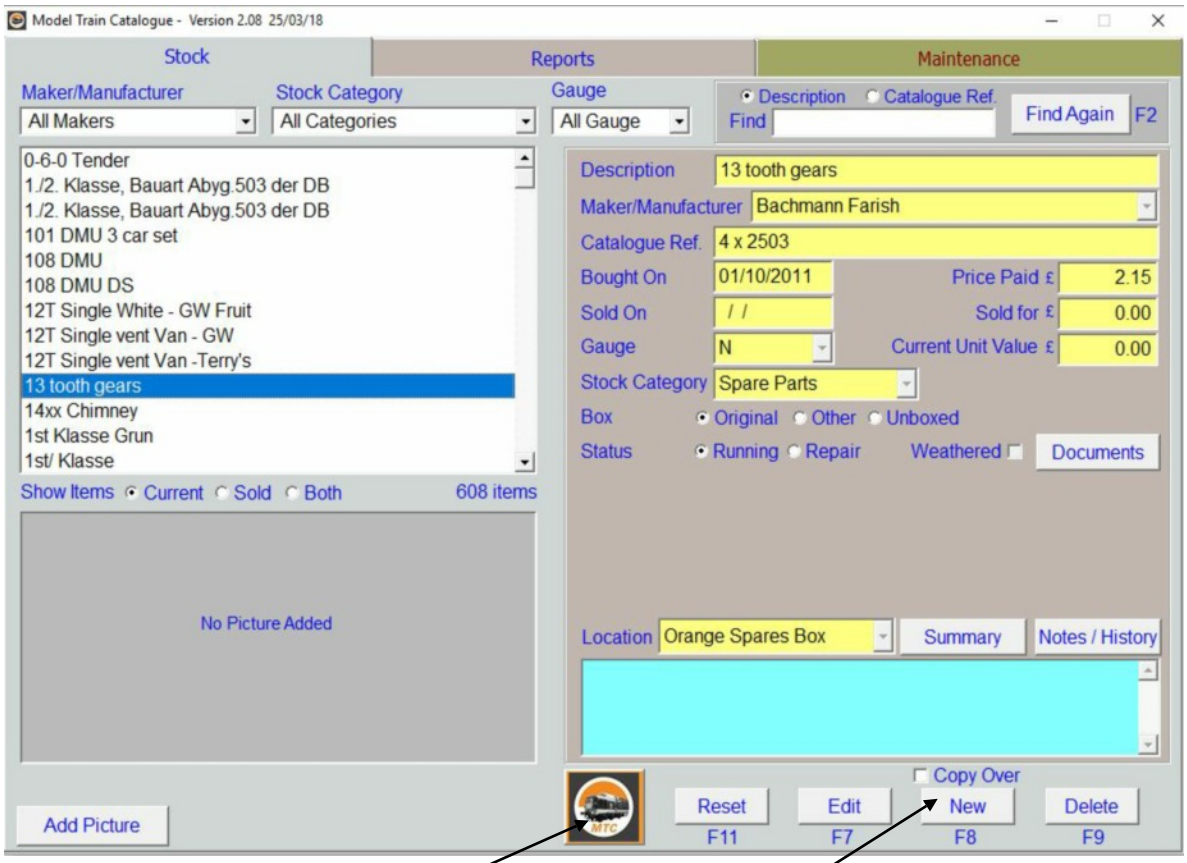
# Installation

Please see separate document 'Model Train Catalogue Installation Instructions PDF' obtainable from www.modeltraincatalogue.com/download.html

The Software initially opens in Demo mode until it is registered. In Demo mode the 'New' button will become disabled after the tenth record is entered.

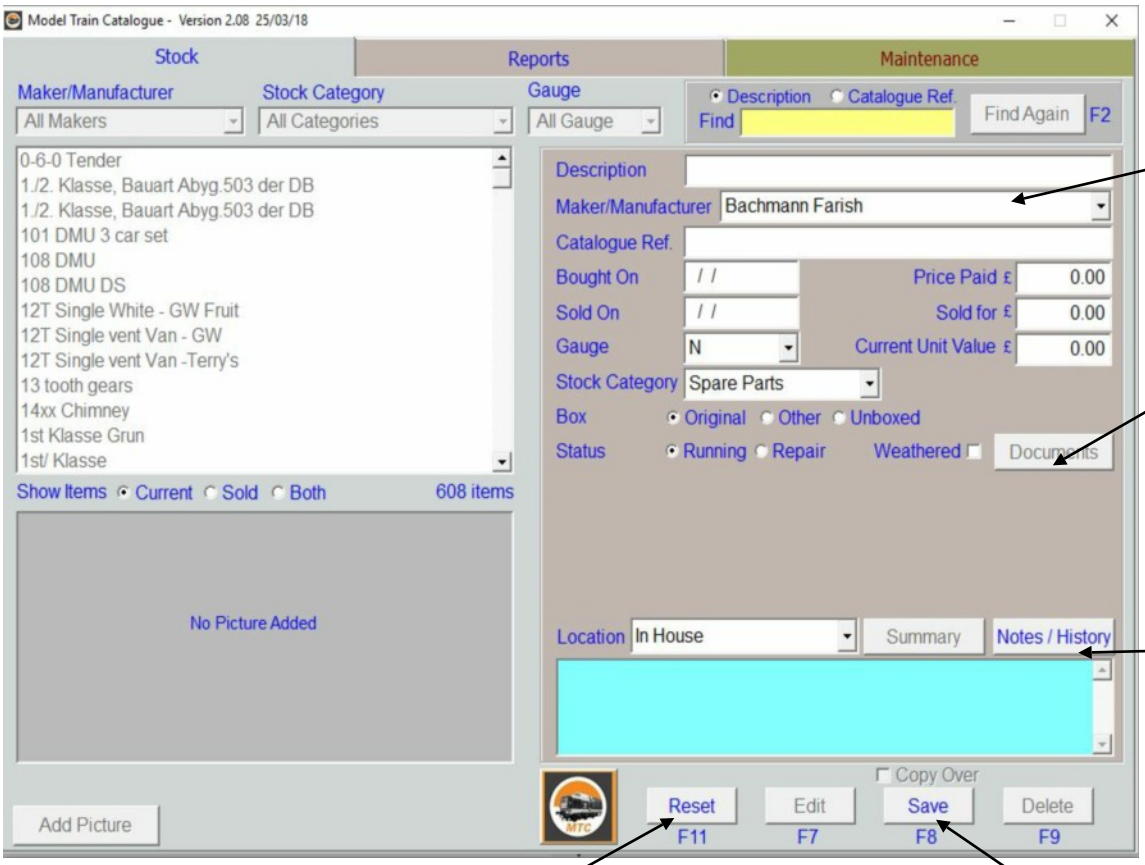
To obtain a Key go to www.modeltraincatalogue.com/buy.html. The Registration Key will be emailed to the buyer whereupon the software can be registered (see page 32 of this manual) releasing the full capacity of the software and re-enabling the 'New' button for further entries.

# Stock Screen – Data Entry




To go to the Model Train Catalogue website quickly, Click the MTC logo

Click the 'New' button to open the form for data entry. Function key F8 will do this too.



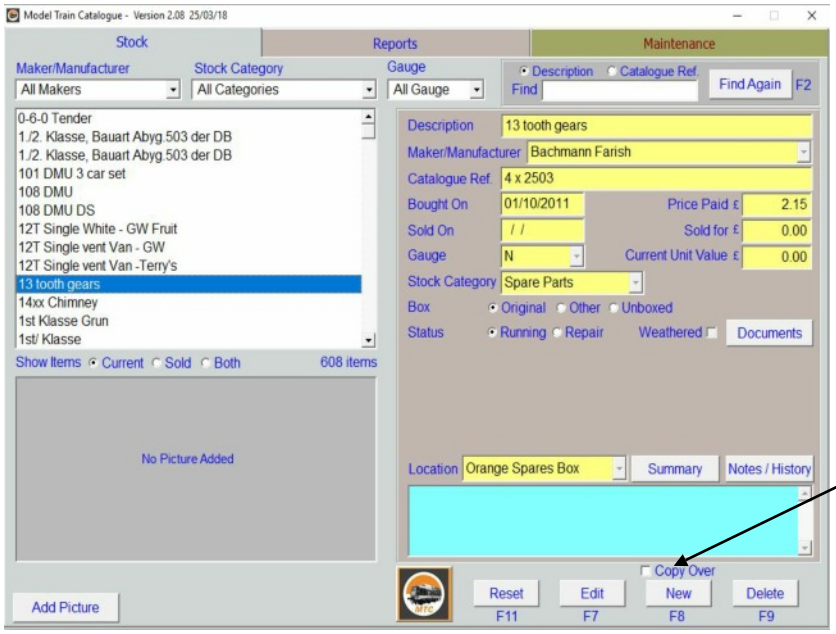

The entry boxes have a white background when ready for entering data.

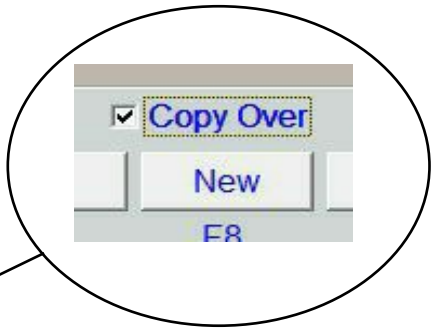
When there are Documents, the Backgound colour of this Button changes to Green.

When there are Notes, the Backgound colour of this button changes to Green.

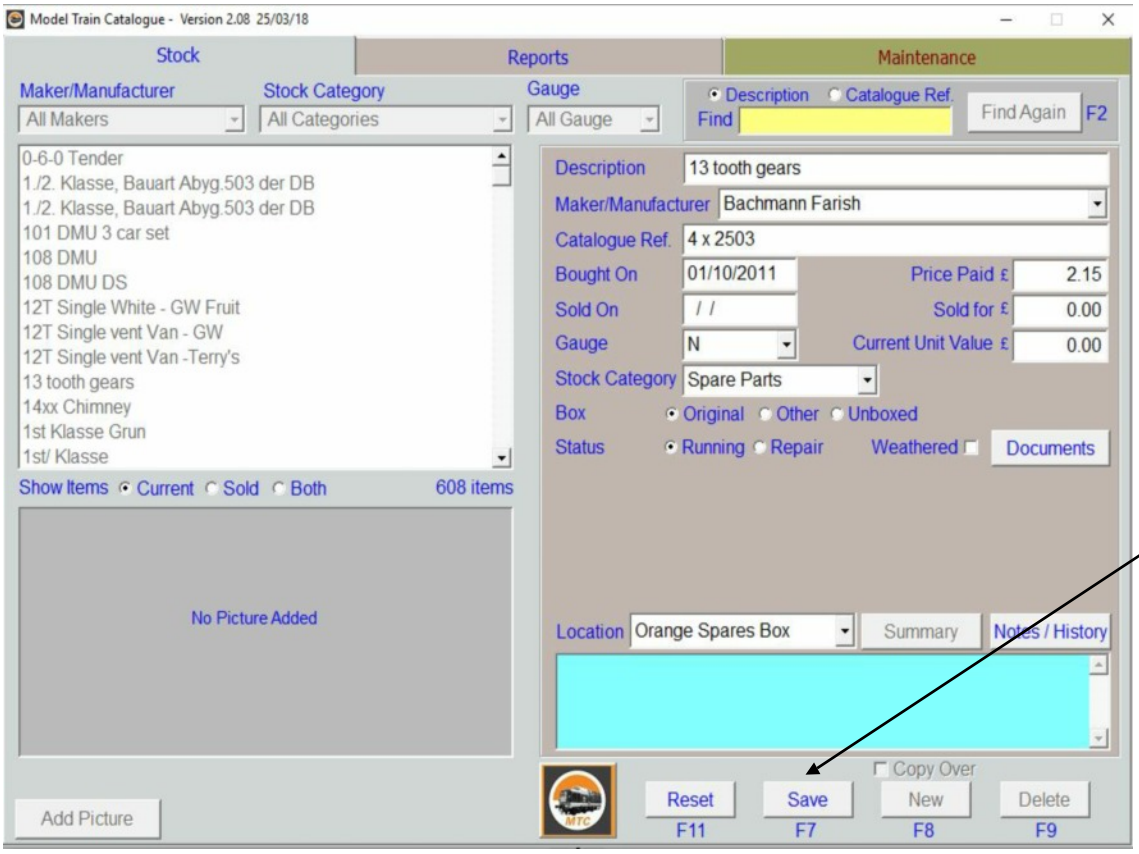
If necessary this action can be cancelled with the 'Reset' button.

Click the 'Save' button to complete the entry and write it to the database. 'F8' will also 'Save' the entry.

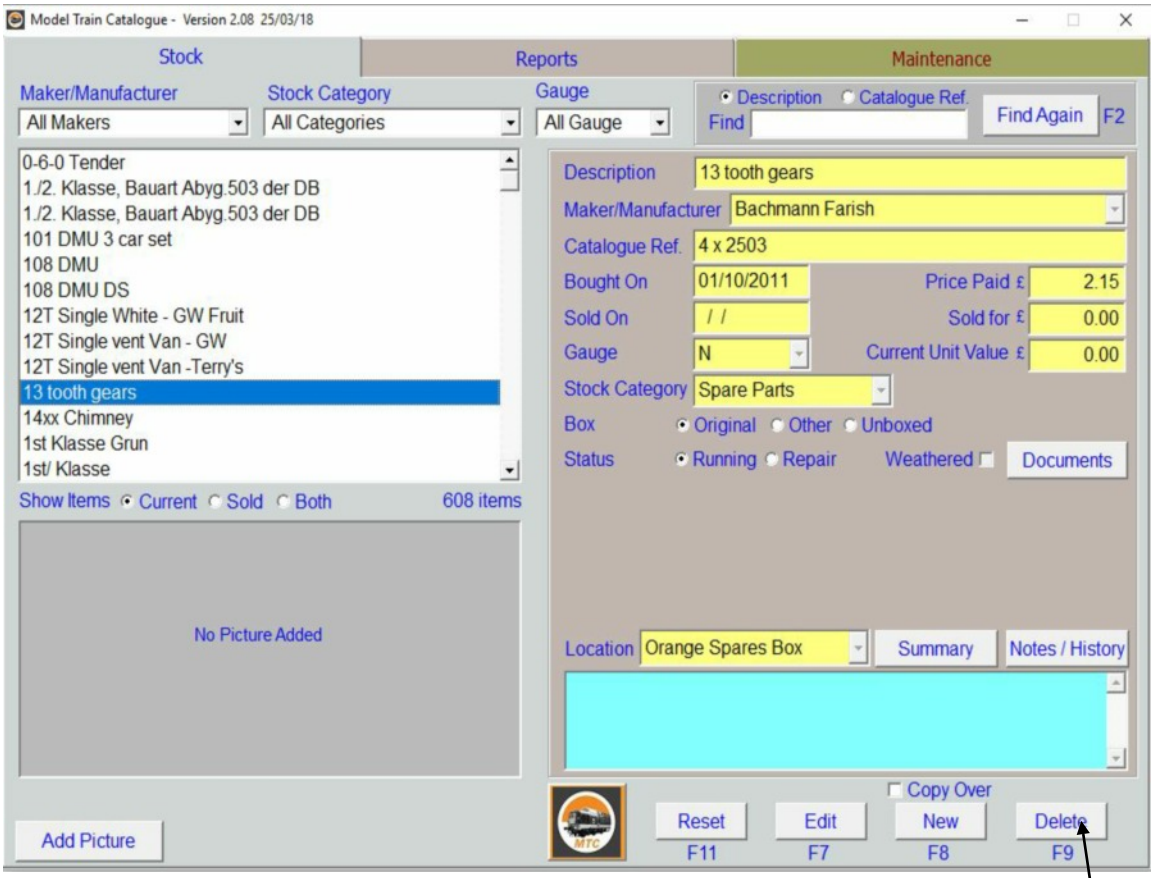


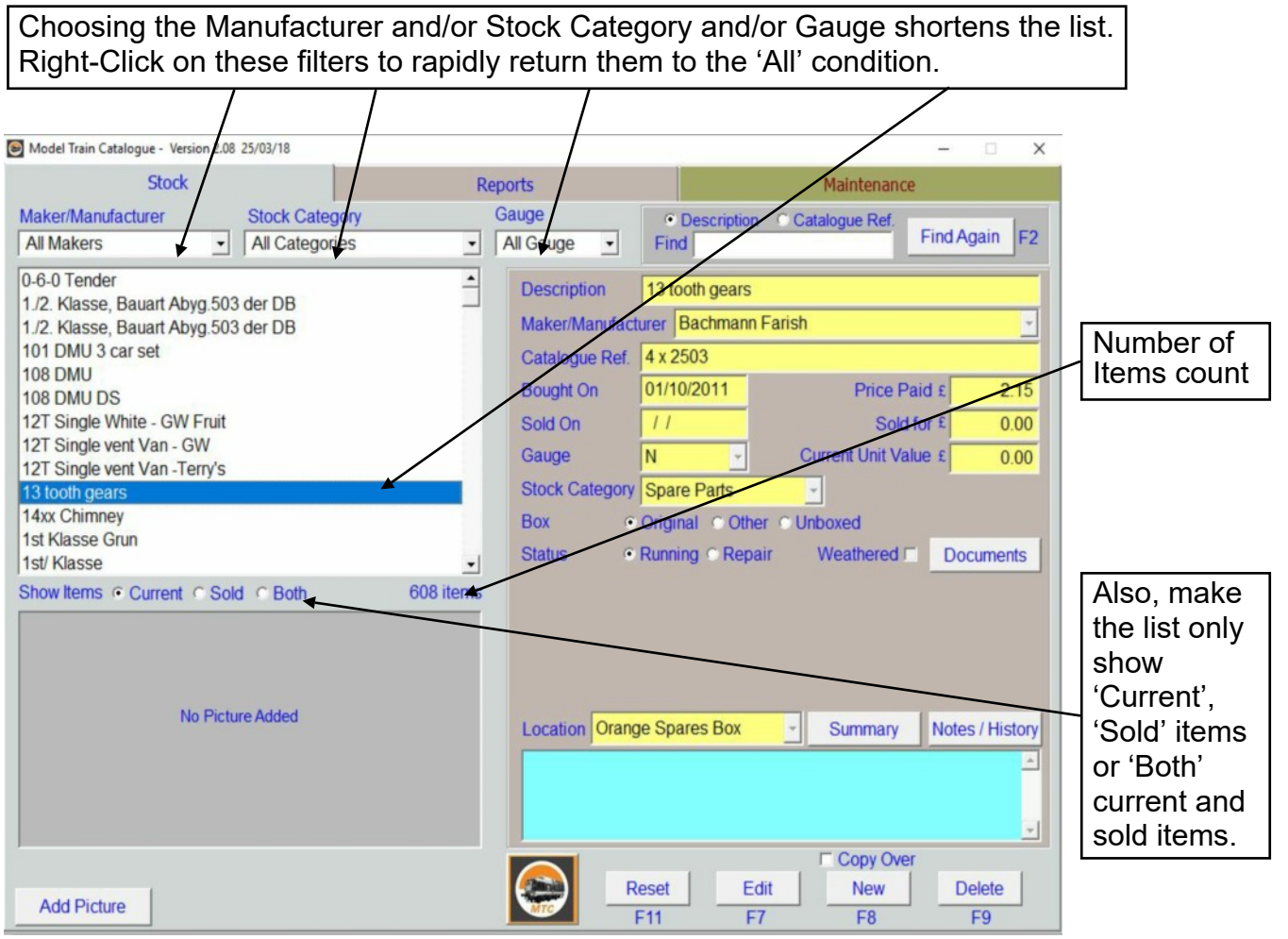

When multiple instances of the same model are being entered, tick the 'Copy Over' box to retain the current entry's details before pressing the 'New' button. Variations can be entered before saving the new entry.

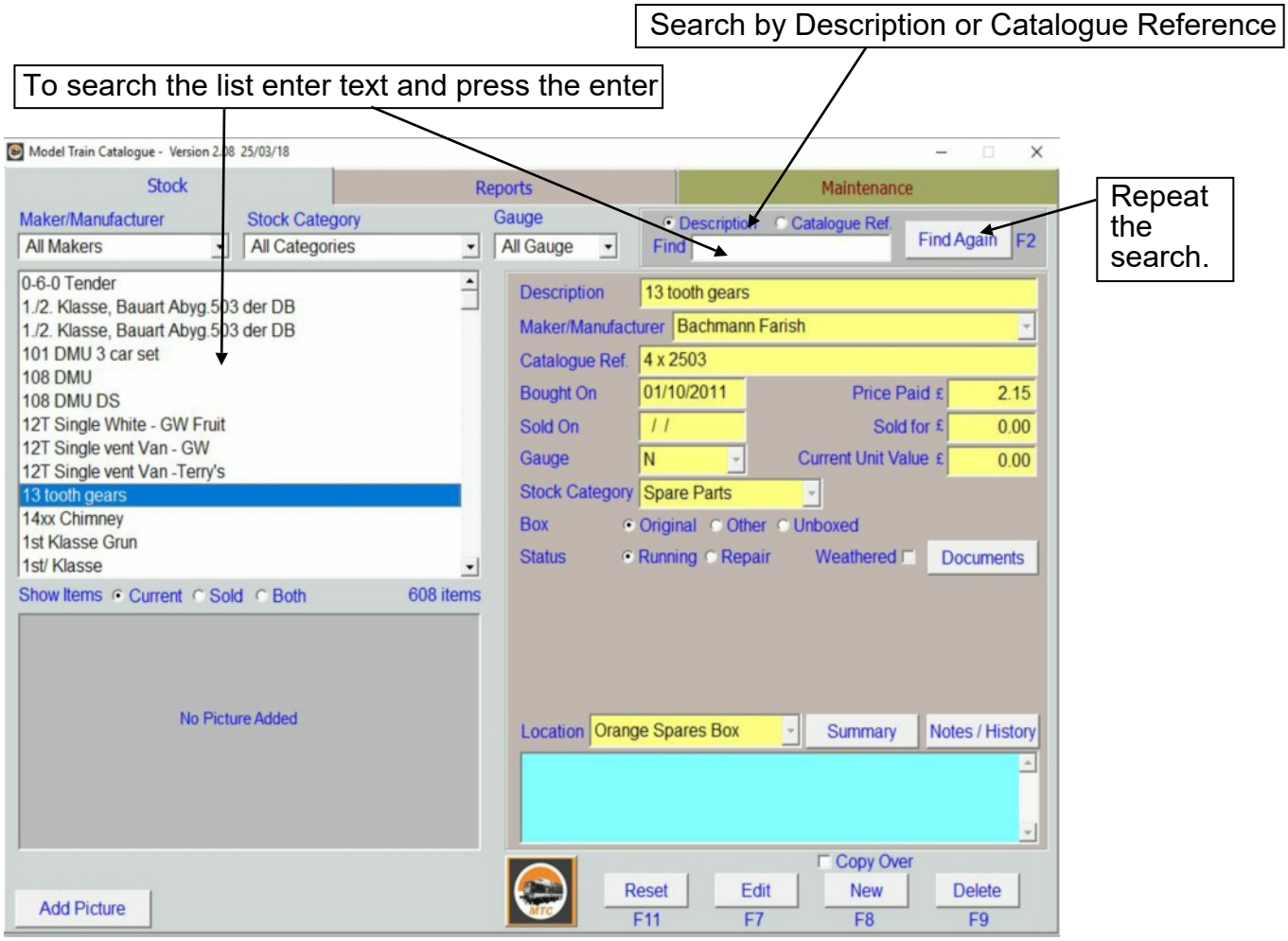



To change or update an existing Item use the Edit button and Save when complete.
F7 will also Edit and Save.




To Delete an item press the 'Delete' button.
F9 will also Delete the item.


Choosing the Manufacturer and/or Stock Category and/or Gauge shortens the list.
Right-Click on these filters to rapidly return them to the 'All' condition.
Model Train Catalogue - Version 2.08 25/03/18
Stock
Reports
Maintenance
Maker/Manufacturer
All Makers
Stock Category
All Categories
Gauge
All Gauge
Description
Catalogue Ref.
Find
Find Again
F2
0-6-0 Tender
1./2. Klasse, Bauart Abyg.503 der DB
1./2. Klasse, Bauart Abyg.503 der DB
101 DMU 3 car set
108 DMU
108 DMU DS
12T Single White - GW Fruit
12T Single vent Van - GW
12T Single vent Van -Terry's
13 tooth gears
14xx Chimney
1st Klasse Grun
1st/ Klasse
Description
13 tooth gears
Maker/Manufacturer
Bachmann Farish
Catalogue Ref.
4 x 2503
Bought On
01/10/2011
Price Paid £
2.15
Sold On
/ /
Sold for £
0.00
Gauge
N
Current Unit Value £
0.00
Stock Category
Spare Parts
Box
Original
Other
Unboxed
Status
Running
Repair
Weathered
Documents
Show Items
Current
Sold
Both
608 items
No Picture Added
Location
Orange Spares Box
Summary
Notes / History
Copy Over
Add Picture
Reset
F11
Edit
F7
New
F8
Delete
F9
Number of Items count
Also, make the list only show 'Current', 'Sold' items or 'Both' current and sold items.

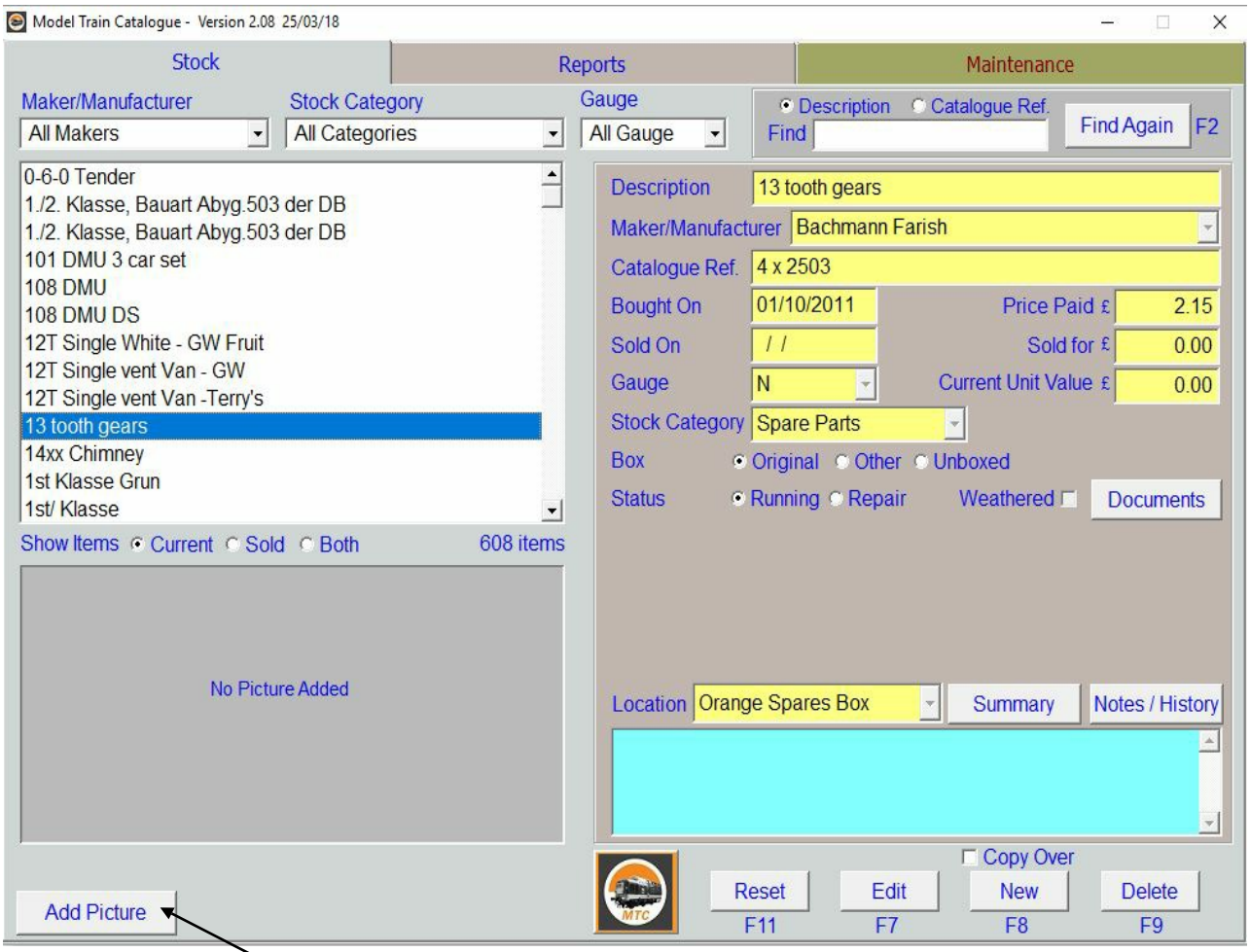

Search by Description or Catalogue Reference
To search the list enter text and press the enter
Model Train Catalogue - Version 2.08 25/03/18
Stock
Reports
Maintenance
Maker/Manufacturer
All Makers
Stock Category
All Categories
Gauge
All Gauge
Description
Catalogue Ref.
Find
Find Again
F2
0-6-0 Tender
1./2. Klasse, Bauart Abyg.503 der DB
1./2. Klasse, Bauart Abyg.503 der DB
101 DMU 3 car set
108 DMU
108 DMU DS
12T Single White - GW Fruit
12T Single vent Van - GW
12T Single vent Van -Terry's
13 tooth gears
14xx Chimney
1st Klasse Grun
1st/ Klasse
Description
13 tooth gears
Maker/Manufacturer
Bachmann Farish
Catalogue Ref.
4 x 2503
Bought On
01/10/2011
Price Paid £
2.15
Sold On
/ /
Sold for £
0.00
Gauge
N
Current Unit Value £
0.00
Stock Category
Spare Parts
Box
Original
Other
Unboxed
Status
Running
Repair
Weathered
Documents
Show Items
Current
Sold
Both
608 items
No Picture Added
Location
Orange Spares Box
Summary
Notes / History
Copy Over
Add Picture
Reset
F11
Edit
F7
New
F8
Delete
F9
Repeat the search.

# Stock Screen – Adding Pictures

Any number of pictures can be added to an individual item that has already been entered .

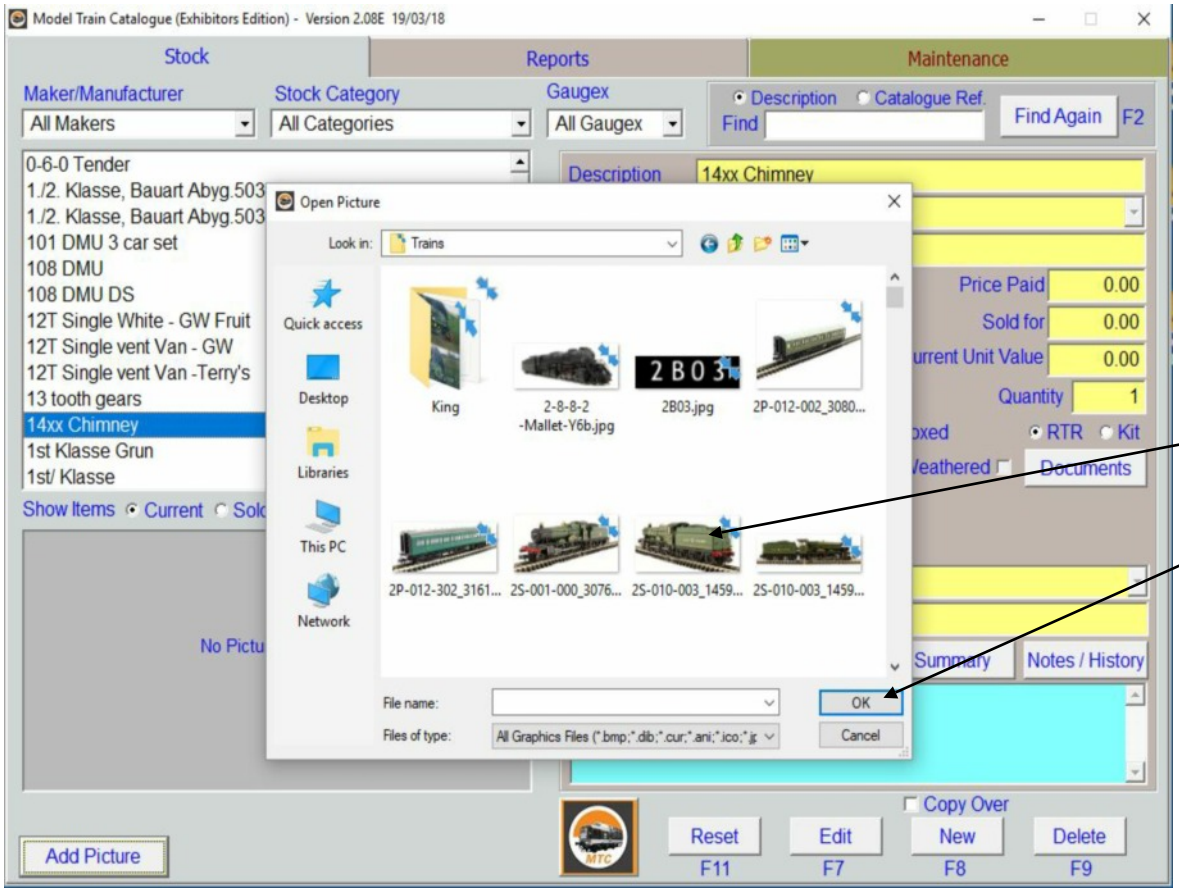
Pictures are not moved from their original location but copied instead. This leaves original pictures completely untouched and unmodified. Large picture file sizes are no problem to MTC because the copied images themselves are held in a folder on the hard drive. As long as there is disk space available images can be added.

Picture quality of the original image will determine when and if the picture becomes ‘pixilated’ i.e. be enlarged so far that the viewer sees the individual pixels that form the image, the enlargement having reached the point at which no further detail can be resolved. Images ‘grabbed’ from web pages are more likely to become pixilated than images captured on a good digital camera.




To add a Picture for the item, use the ‘Add Picture’ Button

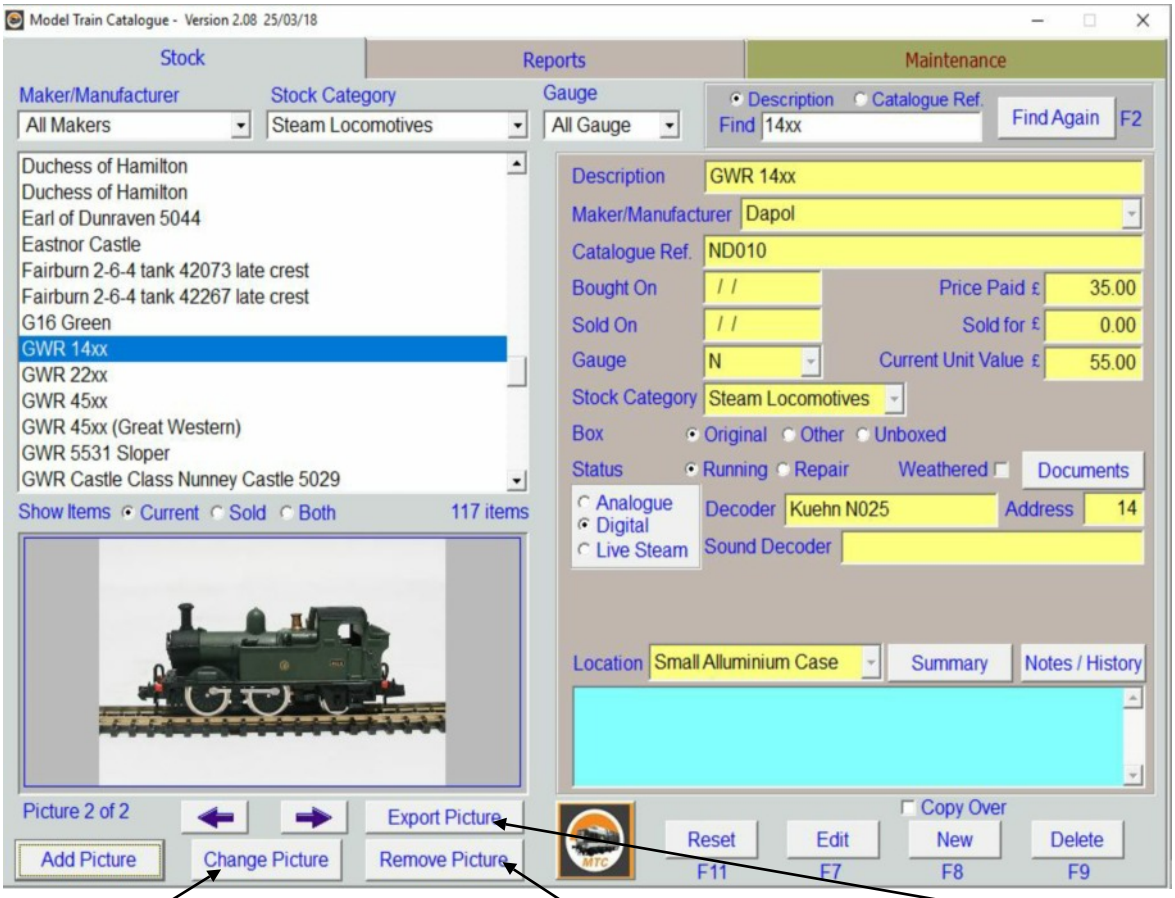
| Graphic format | File extension |
|---|---|
| Animated Cursor | .ani |
| Bitmap | .bmp |
| Cursor | .cur |
| Device Independent Bitmap | .dib |
| Exchangeable Image File | .exif |
| Graphics Interchange Format | .gif, .gfa |
| Joint Photographic Electronic Group } | .jpg, .jpeg, |
| JPEG File Interchange Format } | .jpe, .jfif |
| Icon | .ico |
| Portable Networks Graphics | .png |
| Tag Image File Format | .tif, .tiff |
| Windows Enhanced Metafile | .emf |




Select the Picture and Click the 'OK' Button

Or

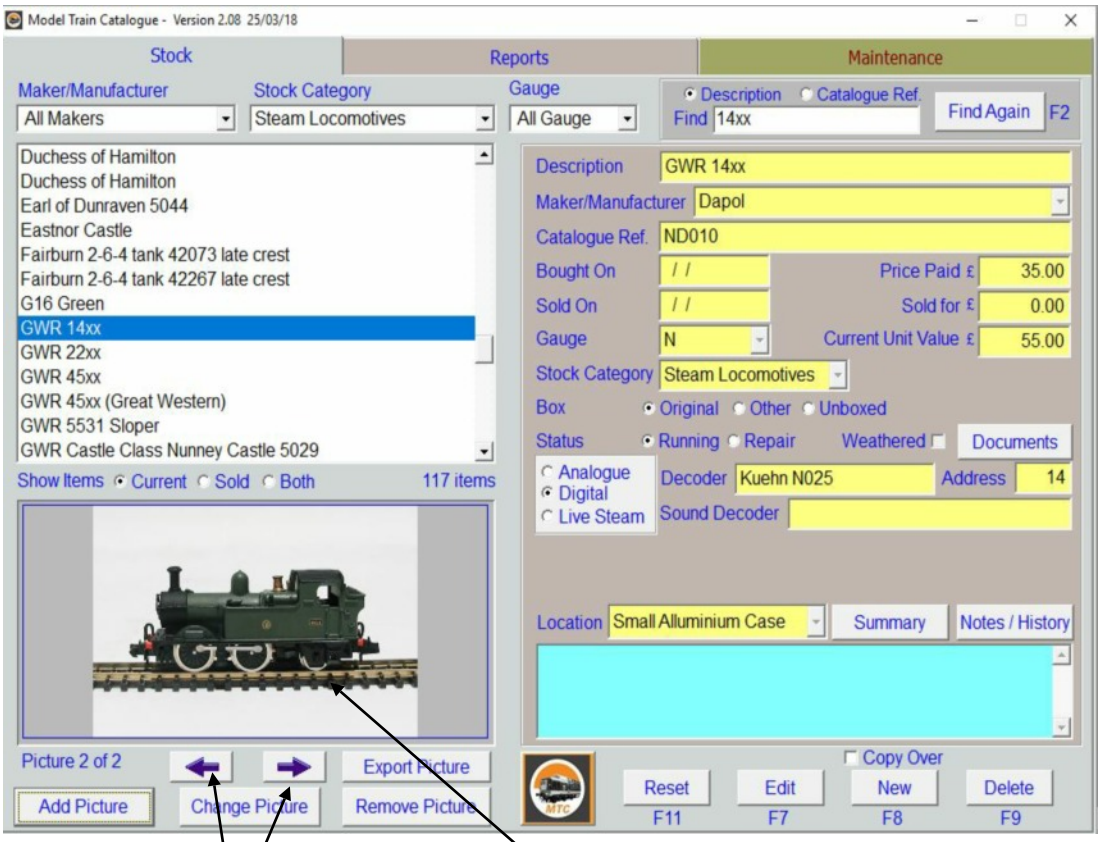
Double-Click the picture required.




To Change Picture use the 'Change Picture' Button.

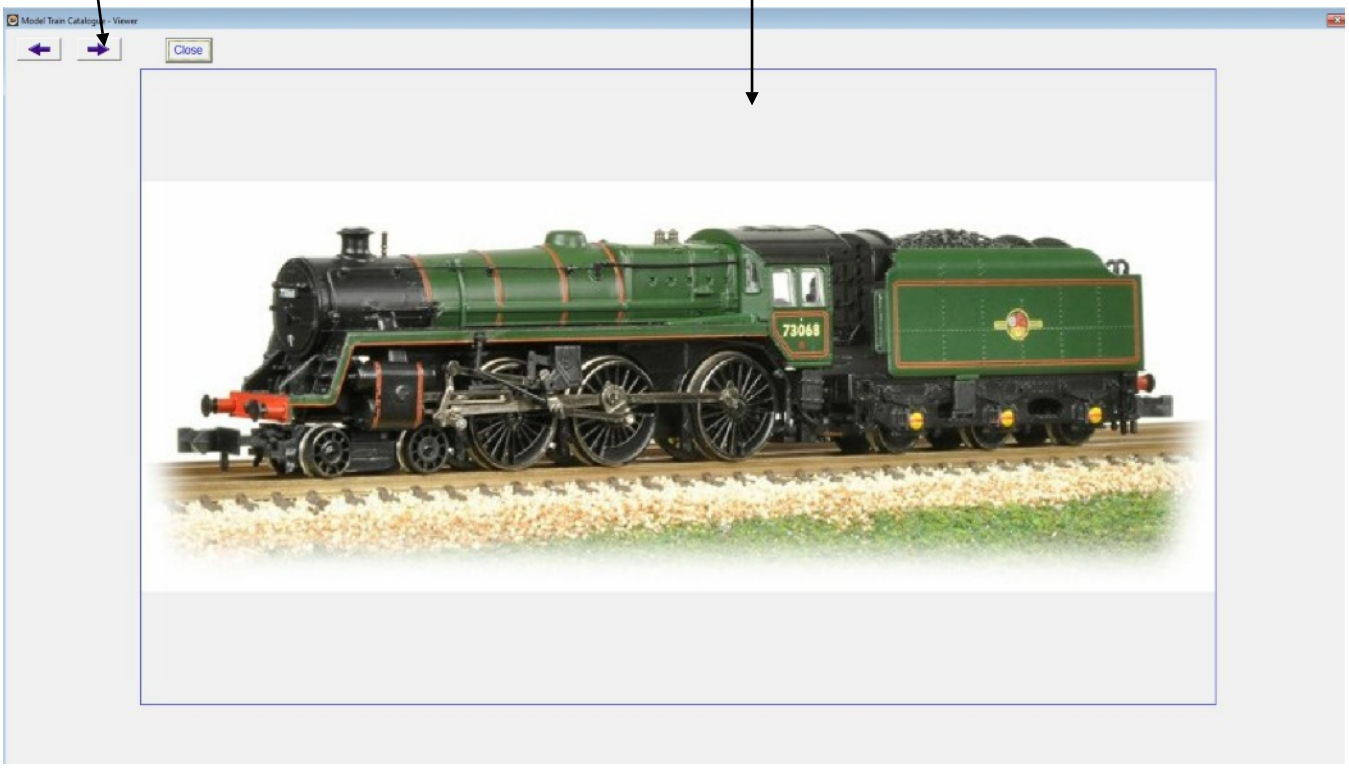
To Remove Picture use the 'Remove'Picture' Button.

To Export the picture use the 'Export Picture' Button.

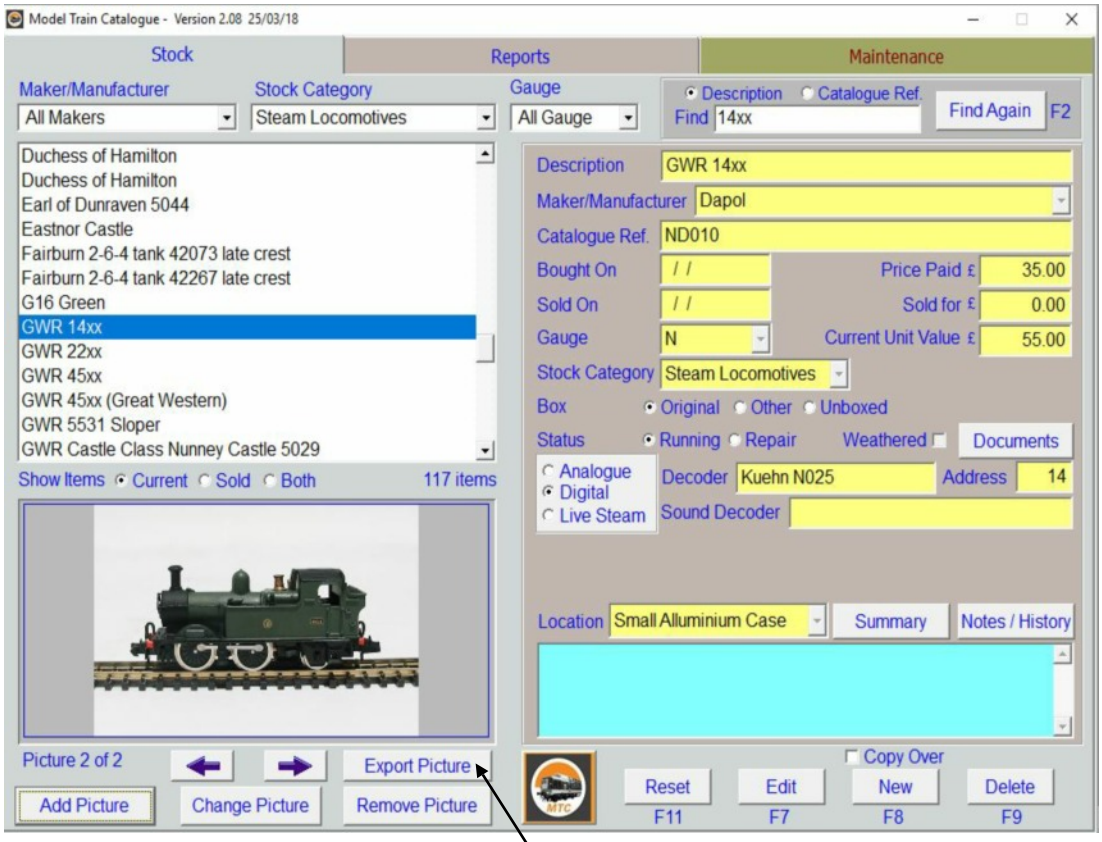



To move between pictures use the Arrow buttons - these buttons appear only when there is more than one picture for the item.

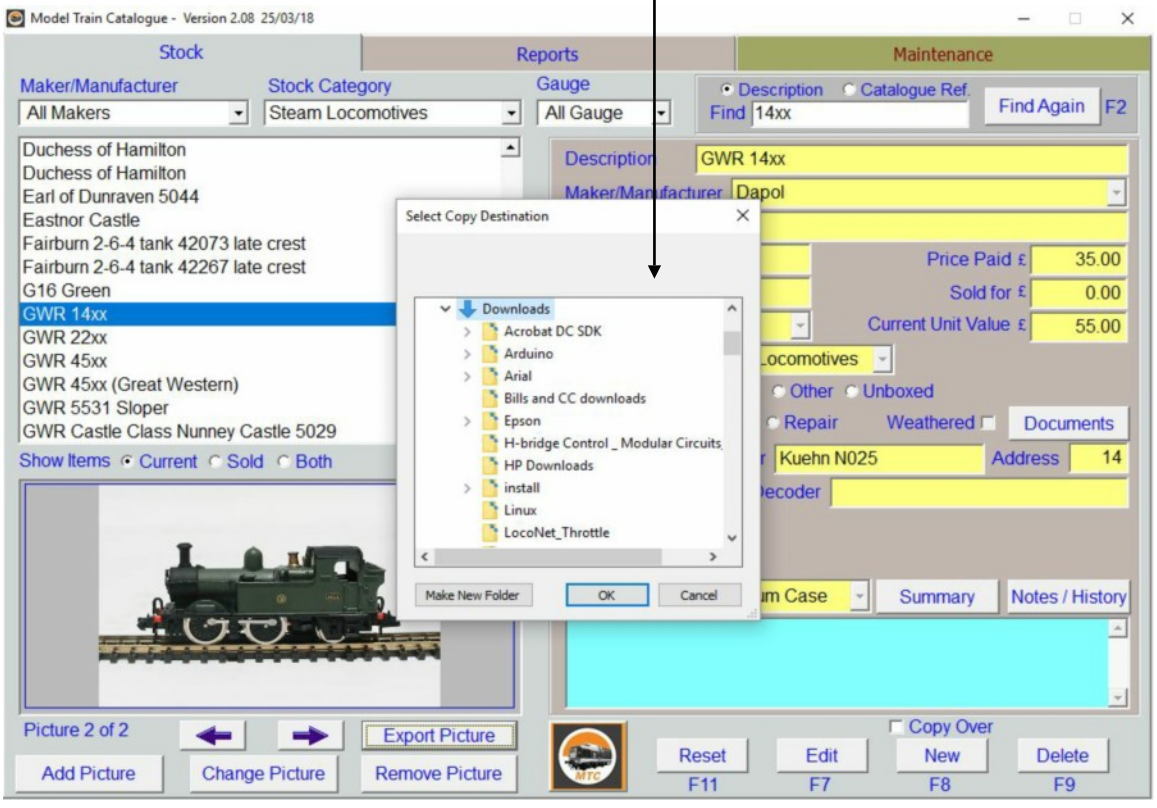
Double-Click the image to view in full screen mode.



# Stock Screen – Exporting Pictures

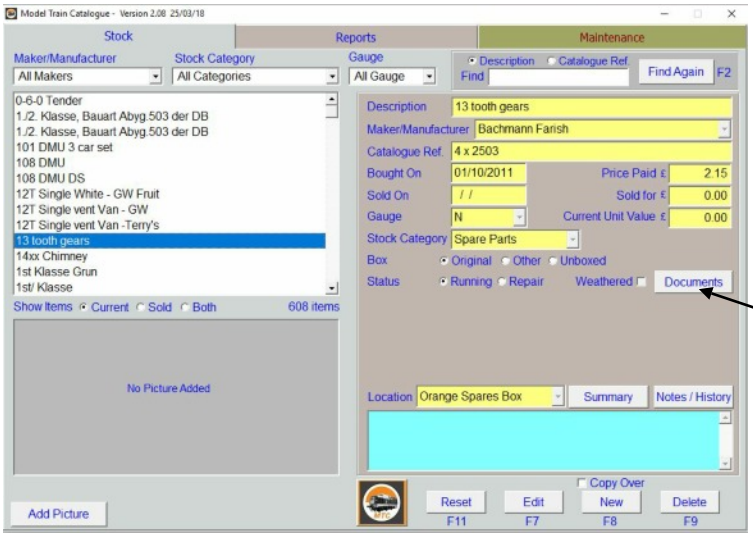



Click ‘Export Picture’ Button to export picture.
Use this dialogue box to locate the destination.

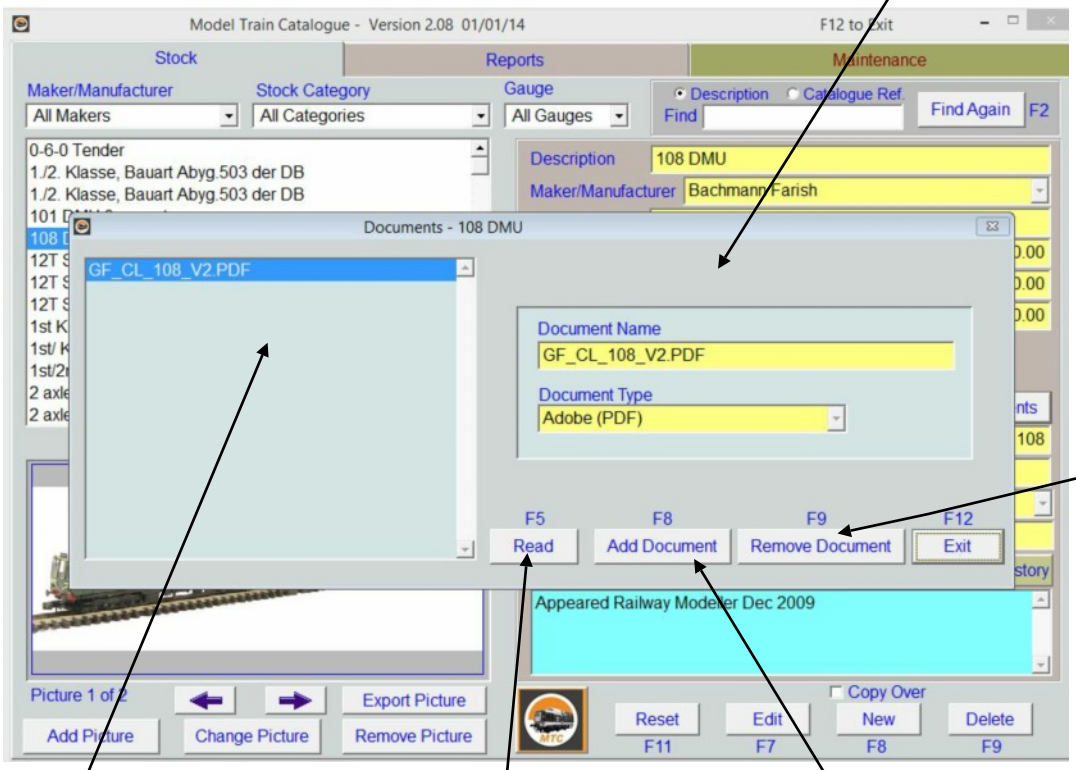


# Stock Screen – Importing Documents

Documents such as service or instruction sheets, relating to the item can be stored. There is no limit to the size or quantity of documents that can be stored other than disk space available on the computer. The types of document able to be stored comprise Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word 2007 - 2016, Microsoft Word 1997-2003, Rich Text Format, Plain Text Format. It relies on the standard Windows file type association to enable documents to be read. Like the Pictures, MTC makes a copy of any documents input, leaving the originals intact.




The Documents Button brings up this screen



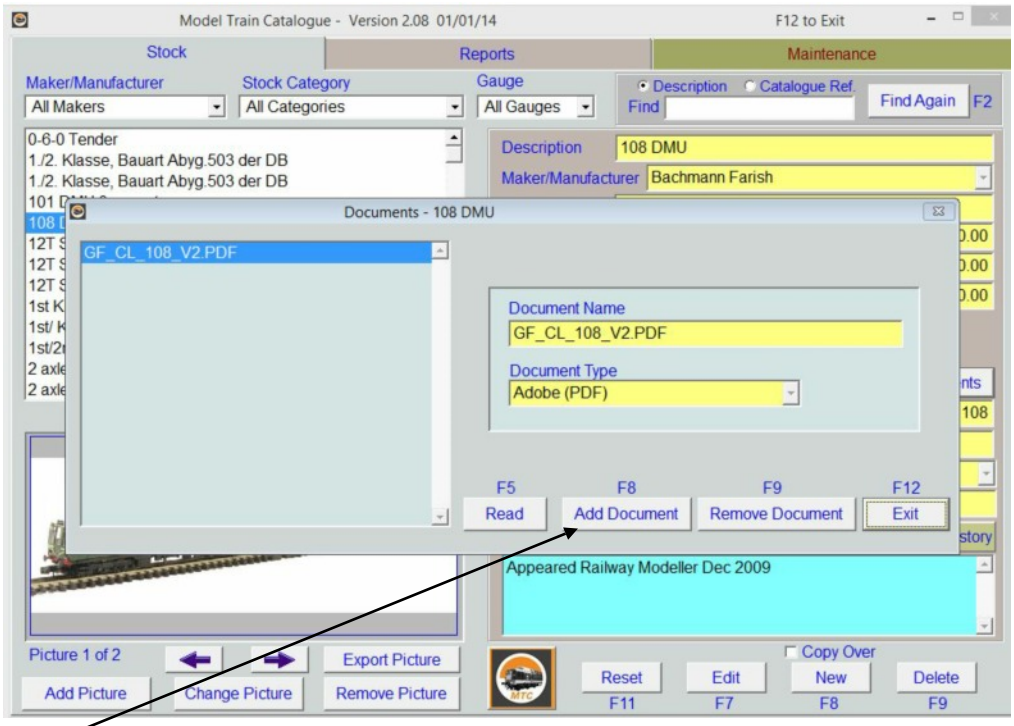

Remove a Document

List of Documents

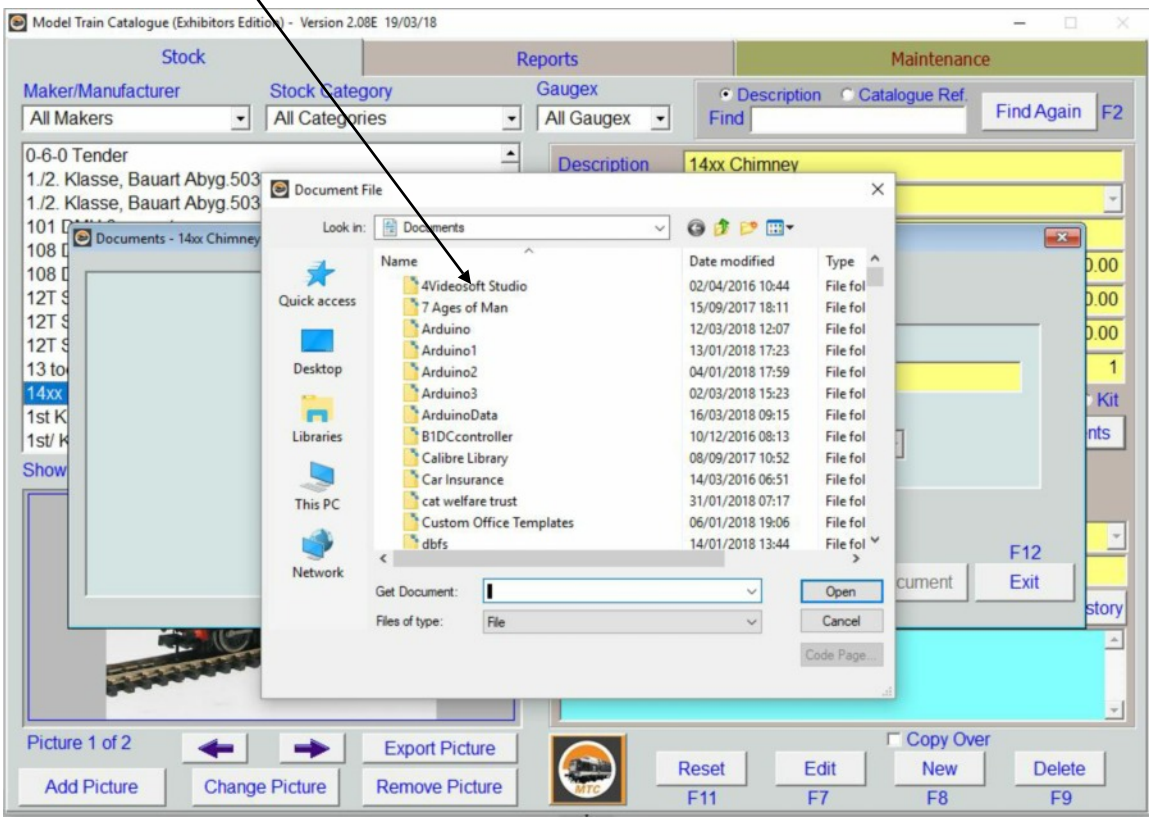
Read a Document

Add a new Document

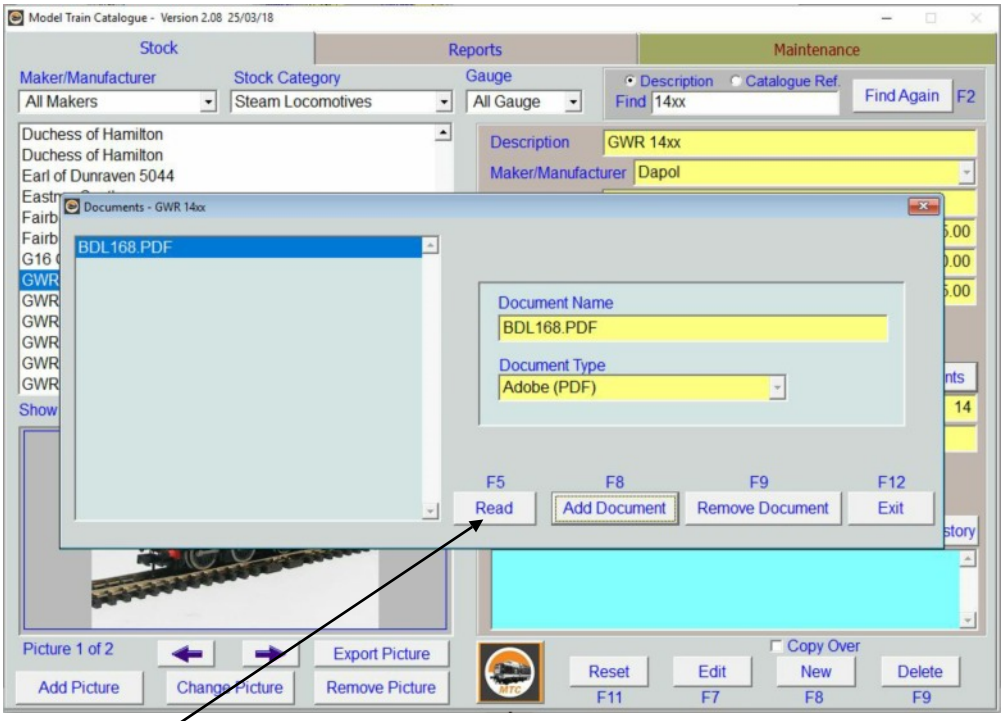
# Importing Documents – Add Documents



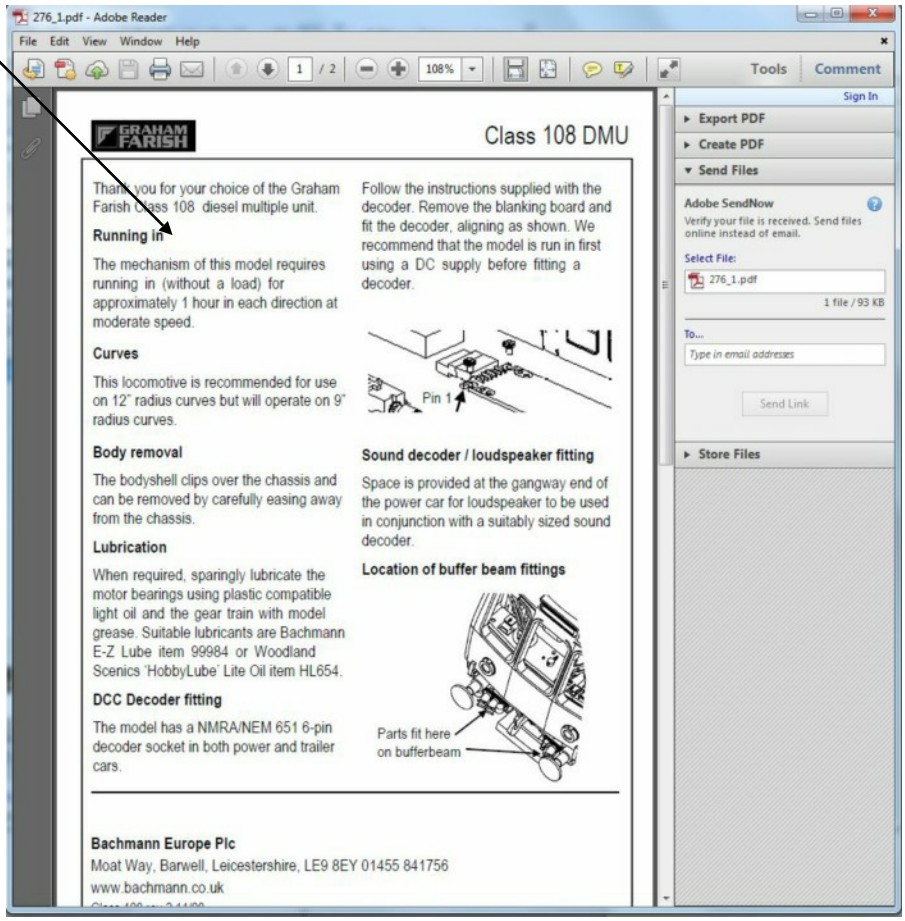

'Add Document' button brings up a dialogue box to locate the document to be added.



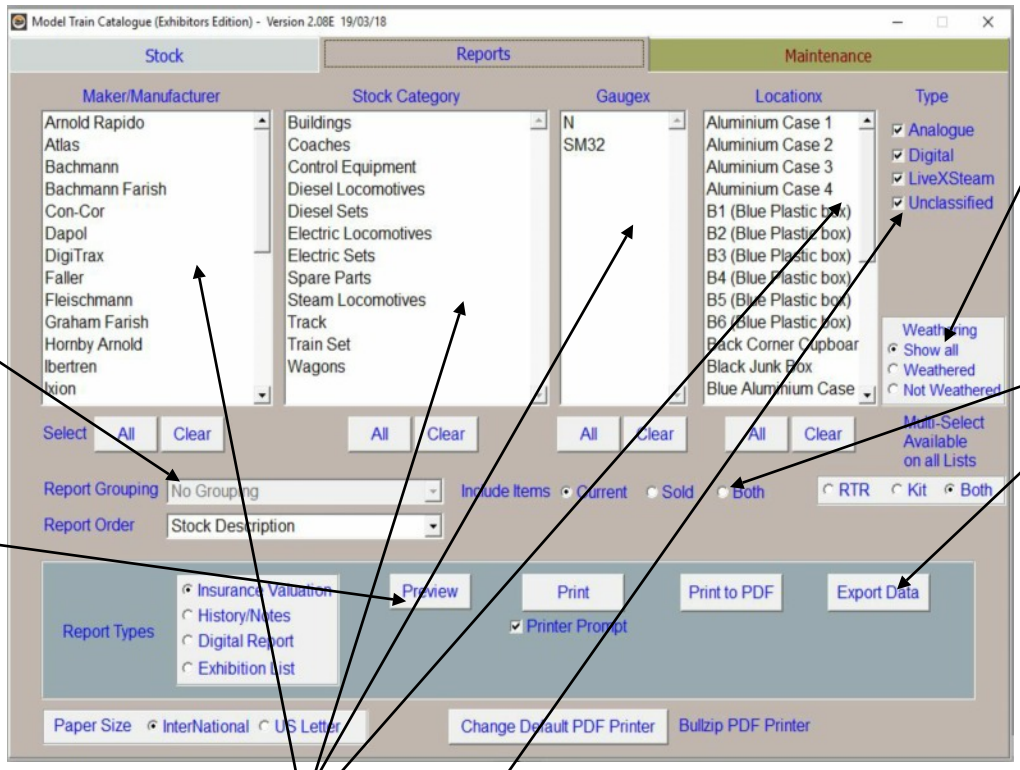
# Importing Documents – Read Documents




Read a Document Button calls the associated program from Windows to view the document. In this example an Adobe PDF file has been viewed. This occurs because Adobe Reader (free download) has been installed on the computer. Likewise, to view a Word Document either Microsoft Word or the Microsoft Word Viewer (free download) has to have been installed on the computer.



# Reports




Data can be Grouped and totalled by Group.

Select Weathered or Non-weathered items.

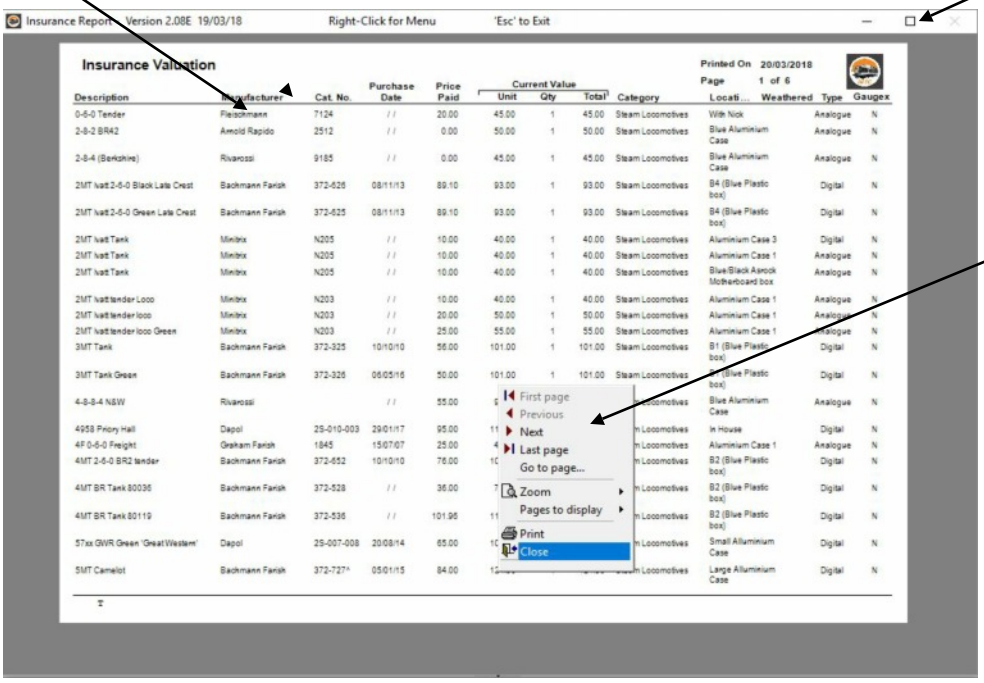
Select 'Current', 'Sold' or 'Both' items to be included.

Export data Available (Only for Insurance Reports).

The Preview button allows the report to be viewed prior to printing.

By selecting on the lists, tick boxes and radio buttons, the data being reported can be filtered down as required. Use Ctrl key+Left-Click to select multiple items in any one or more lists.

Click on this square to maximise to screen size.

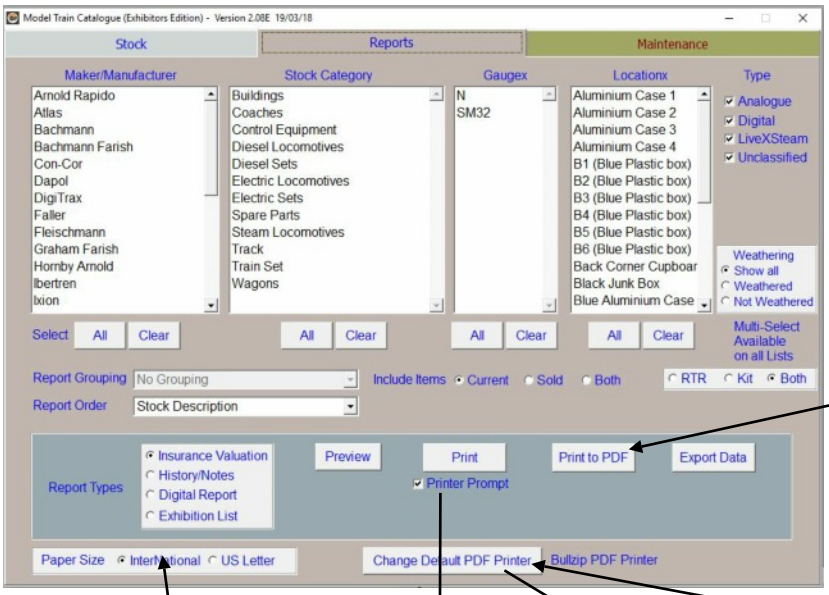



Right-Click on the Preview Page for a menu:

- Navigate pages
- Zoom size
- Pages Displayed
- Print from Preview
- Close Preview

The 'Esc' key also closes the Preview

# Report Printing Options

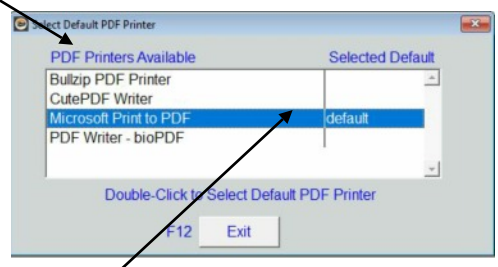



When MTC is started it will check for available PDF printers. The printer name will require 'PDF' in it for it to be included in the list. 'PDF' is case sensitive.

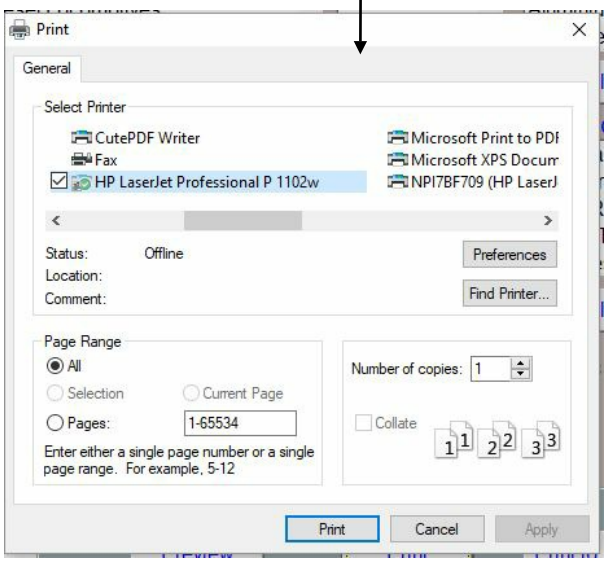
If one PDF printer is available then the 'Print to PDF' button will appear.

Only if more that one PDF printer is available then the 'Change DefaultPDF Printer' button will appear.

Change Paper Size




Double-Click on the preferred PDF printer to set it to your MTC's Default. This does not reset the Windows default printer.

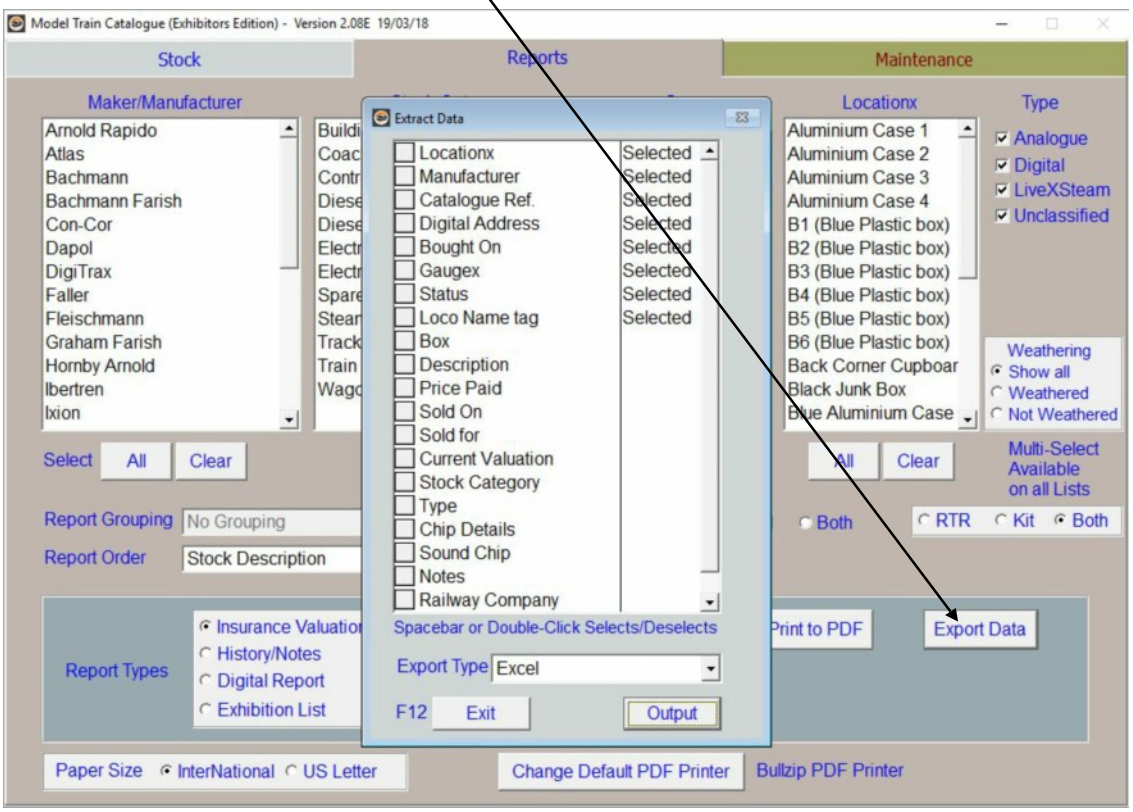


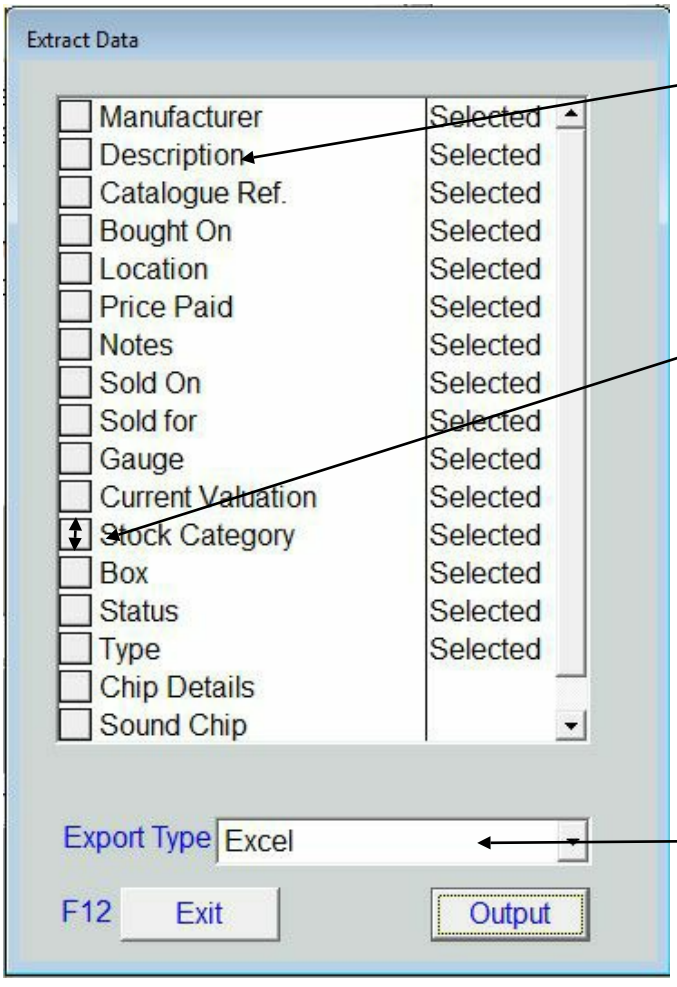

If 'Printer Prompt' is ticked then the Print button will show the Windows printers available for selection. Select printer, Apply and Print.

The PDF printers tested comprise:
*Microsoft Print to PDF* - normally defaults to the 'Documents' folder with ability to change.
*CutePDF Writer* - normally defaults to the 'Documents' folder with ability to change.
*Bullzip PDF Printer* - normally defaults to the 'Desktop' with ability to change.
*PDF writer - bioPDF* - normally defaults to the 'Desktop' with ability to change.

# Reports - Exporting Data

Pressing the ‘Export Data’ button on the Reports page brings up this screen




Double-Click to Select or de-select a data item for output.

Hold Left-Mouse on the ‘mover’ button and move it up or down to ‘drop’ item into the order that data column will be output.

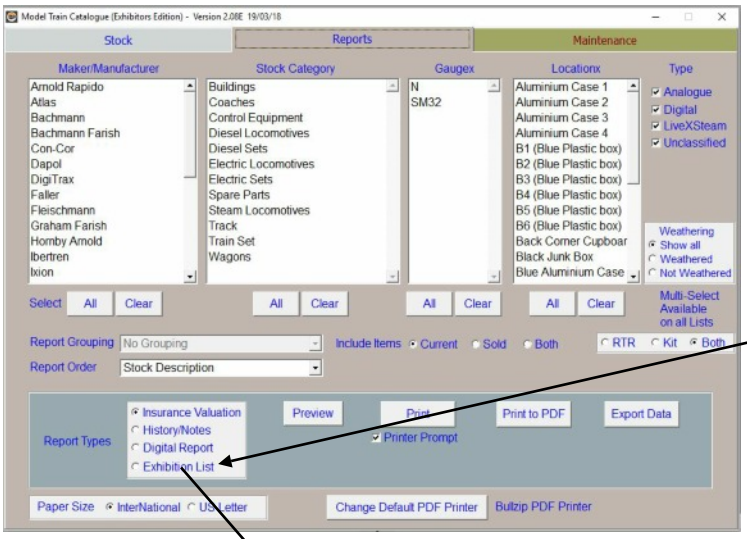
Note: When naming the exported file Windows will not allow the following characters in the file name

**\ / : * ? “ < > |**

Output formats available:

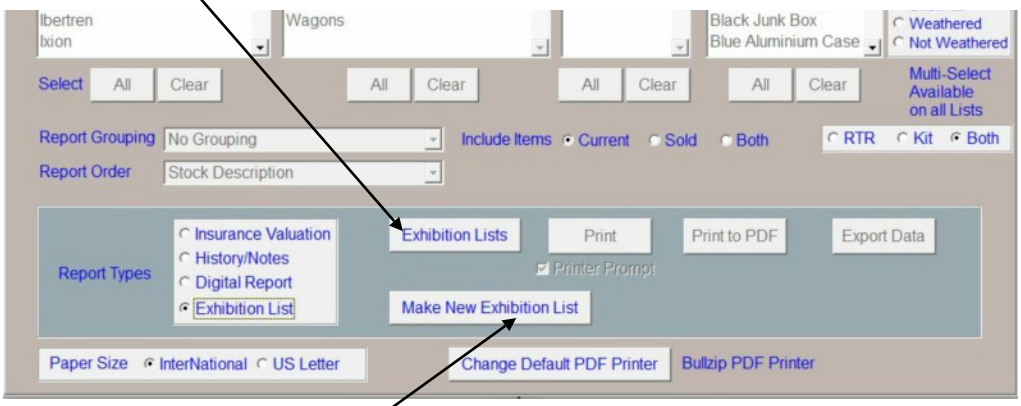
- Excel,
- Comma Separated(CSV)
- Delimited Text File(TXT)
- Undelimited Text file(SDF)
- xBase(DBF)
- XML(Windows-1252)

# Reports - Exhibition List

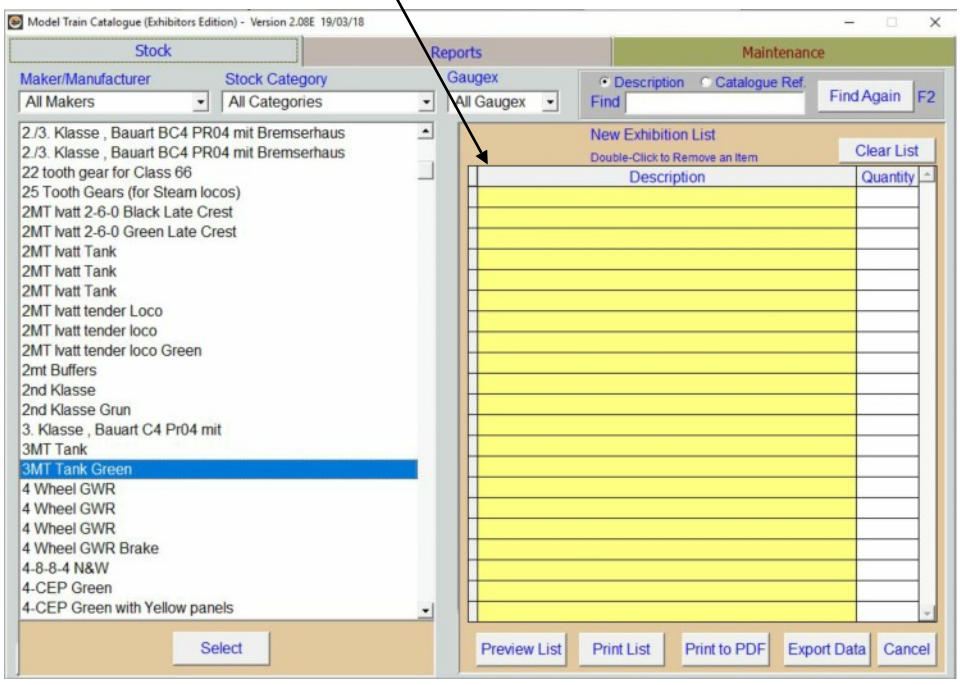



An Exhibition List allows you to extract stock taken to exhibitions.

To start the process Click on ‘Exhibition List’



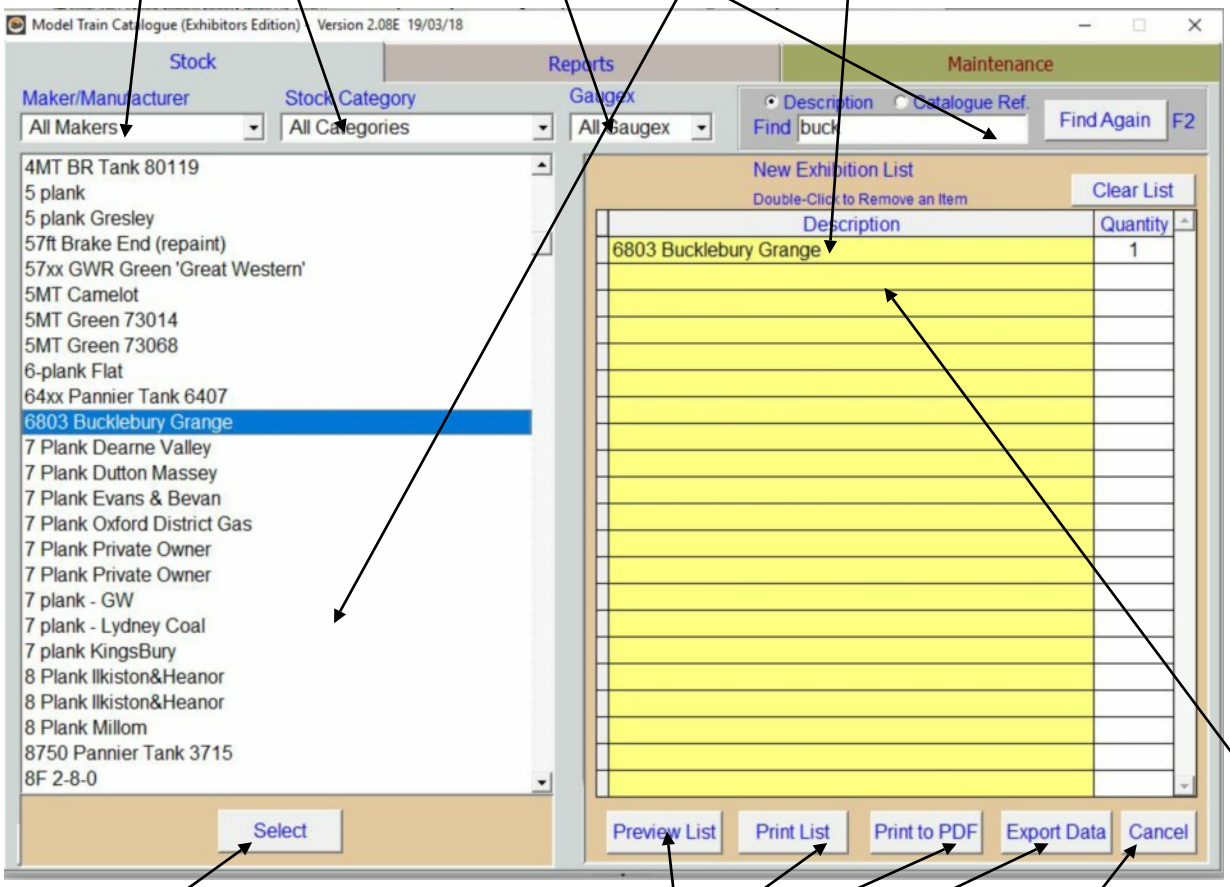

To start a new Exhibition List process Click ‘Make New Exhibition List’
This takes you to the Stock page with a list that will record the items to go to the Exhibition



# **Exhibition List** - Selecting Items

The Selection Filters and Find are still available to help shorten the list

Double-Click the item required and it will be added to the Exhibition List



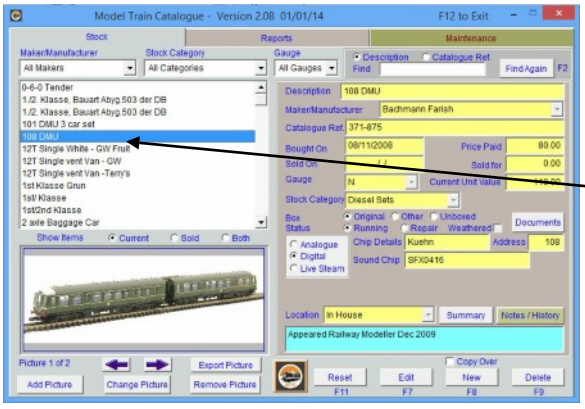

Multi-Select is available - then use the Select button

When List is complete Click on one of these 4 buttons

(See next page)

Double-Click to deselect an item

The 'Cancel' button aborts the List

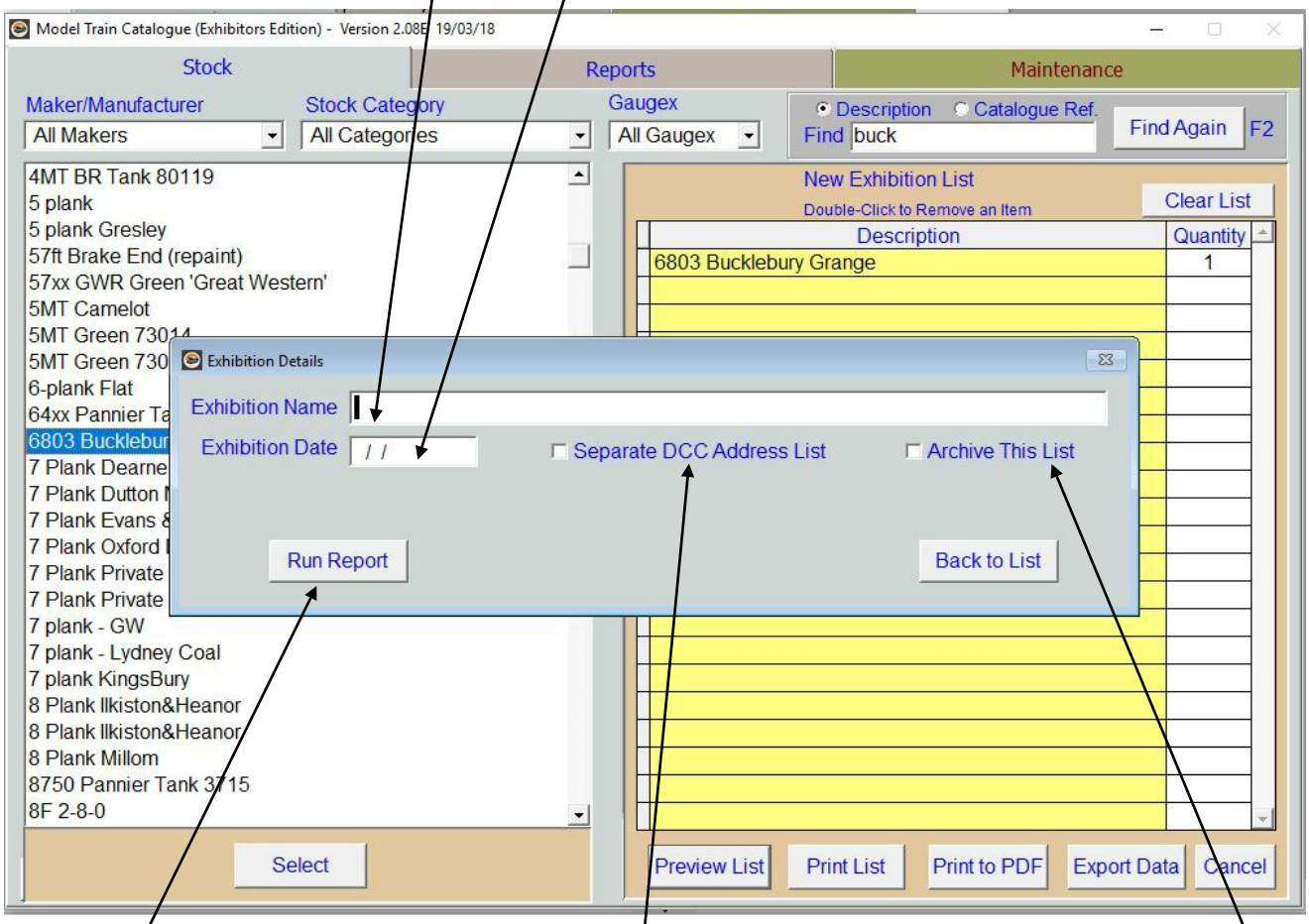


To temporarily view the item's details whilst compiling an exhibition list, Click on the item then hold down the Ctrl key and a mouse button together.

Releasing the Mouse button and Ctrl key returns to the exhibition list.

# **Exhibition List** - Preview or Print (cont'd)

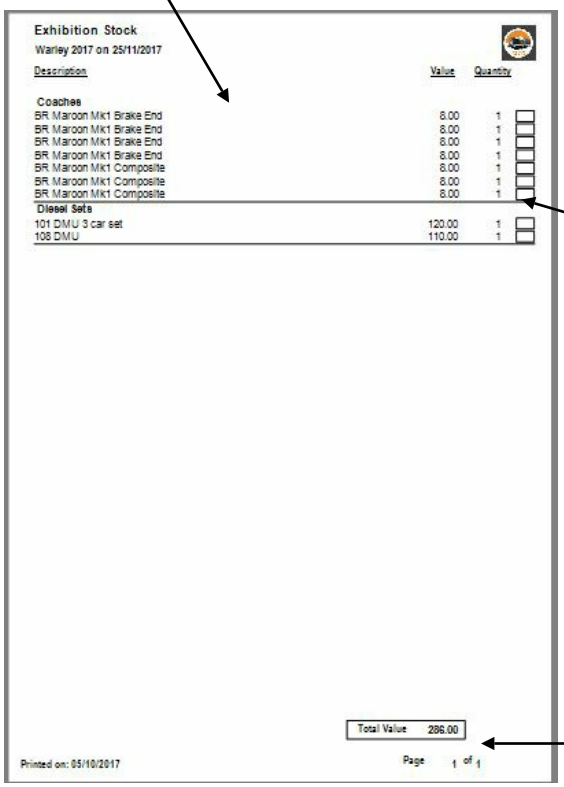
Enter the Name and start date of the Exhibition




Runs the Report

If any selected items is a digital loco this option will appear. It prepares a list of locos and DCC addresses if ticked.

If the list is to be saved for future reference, select this option.

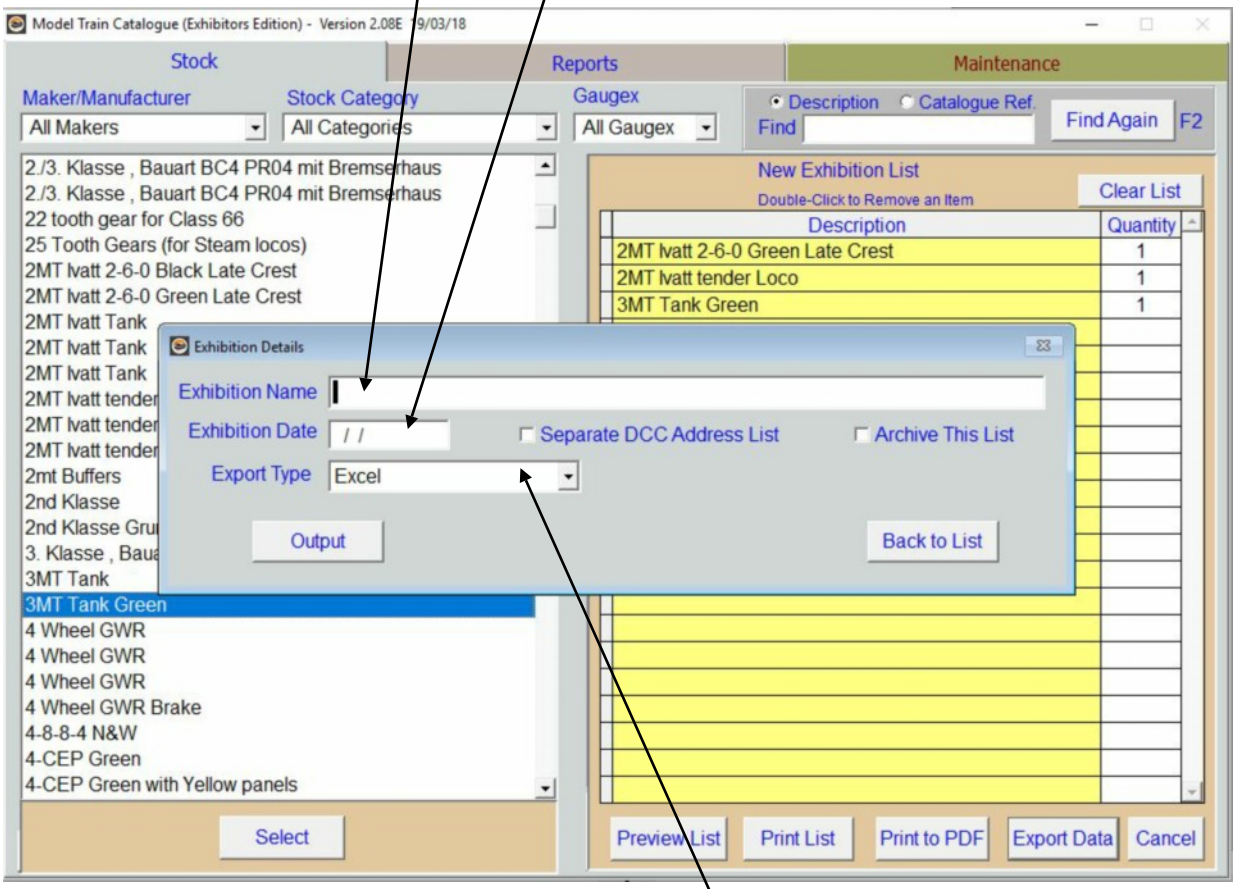



Tick boxes for marking off when packing up at Exhibition.

Total Value of items on list at the bottom of

# **Exhibition List** - Exporting Data

Enter the Name and start date of the Exhibition

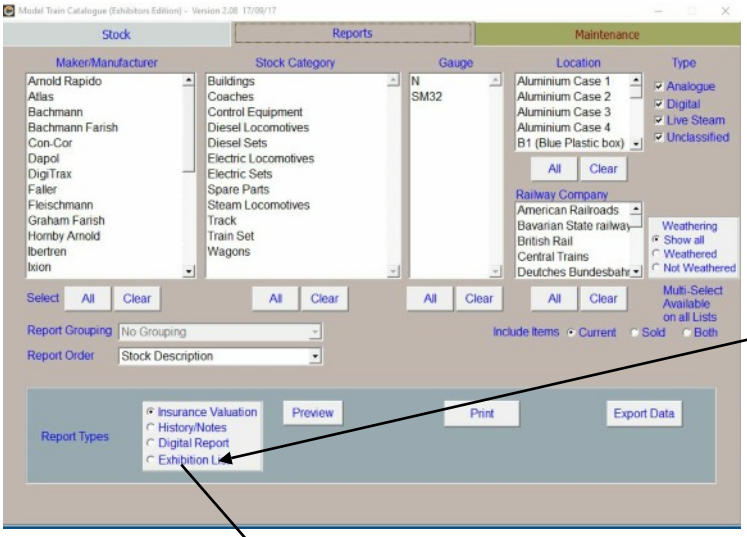



Select Type of Export required:

- Excel
- Comma Separated (CSV)
- Delimited Text File (TXT)
- Undelimited Text File (SDF)
- Xbase (DBF)
- XML (Windows - 1252)

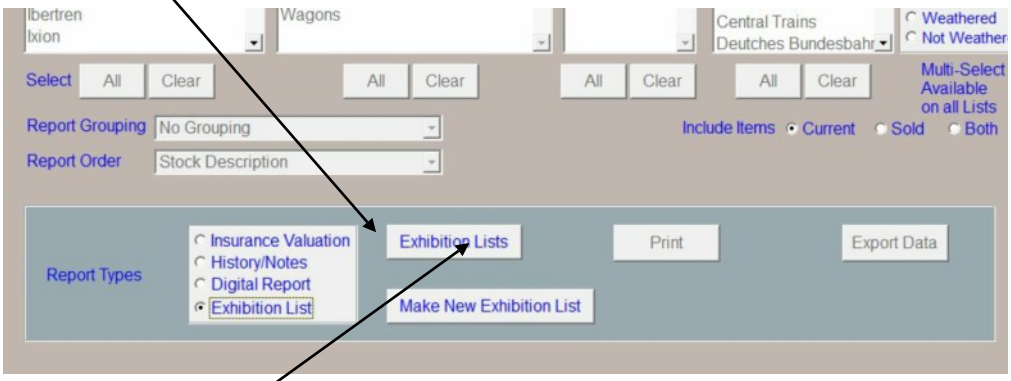
The Output File name comprises the Name and Date of the exhibition and is placed in the Documents folder.

# **Exhibition List** - Archives

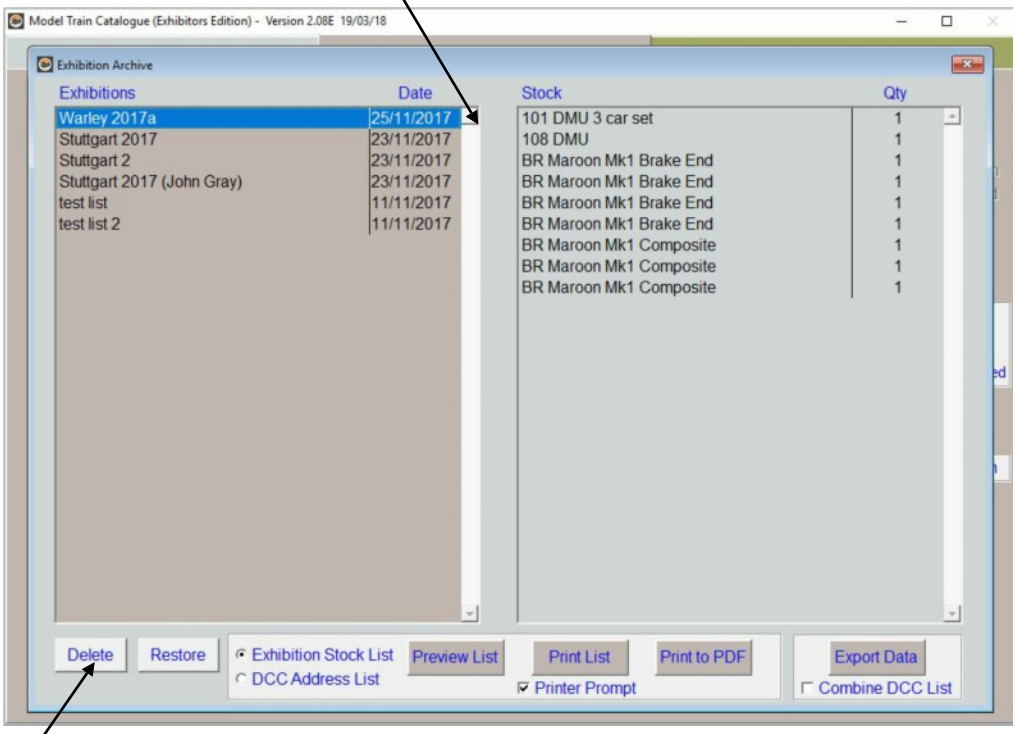



An Exhibition List allows you to extract stock taken to exhibitions.

To start the process Click on ‘Exhibition List’

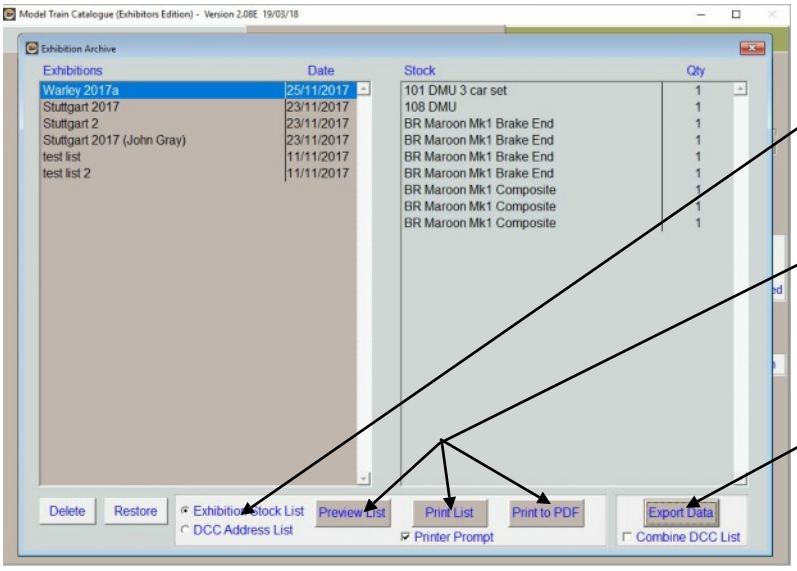



To go to Exhibition List Archives Click ‘Exhibition Lists’ button.




Delete Archive

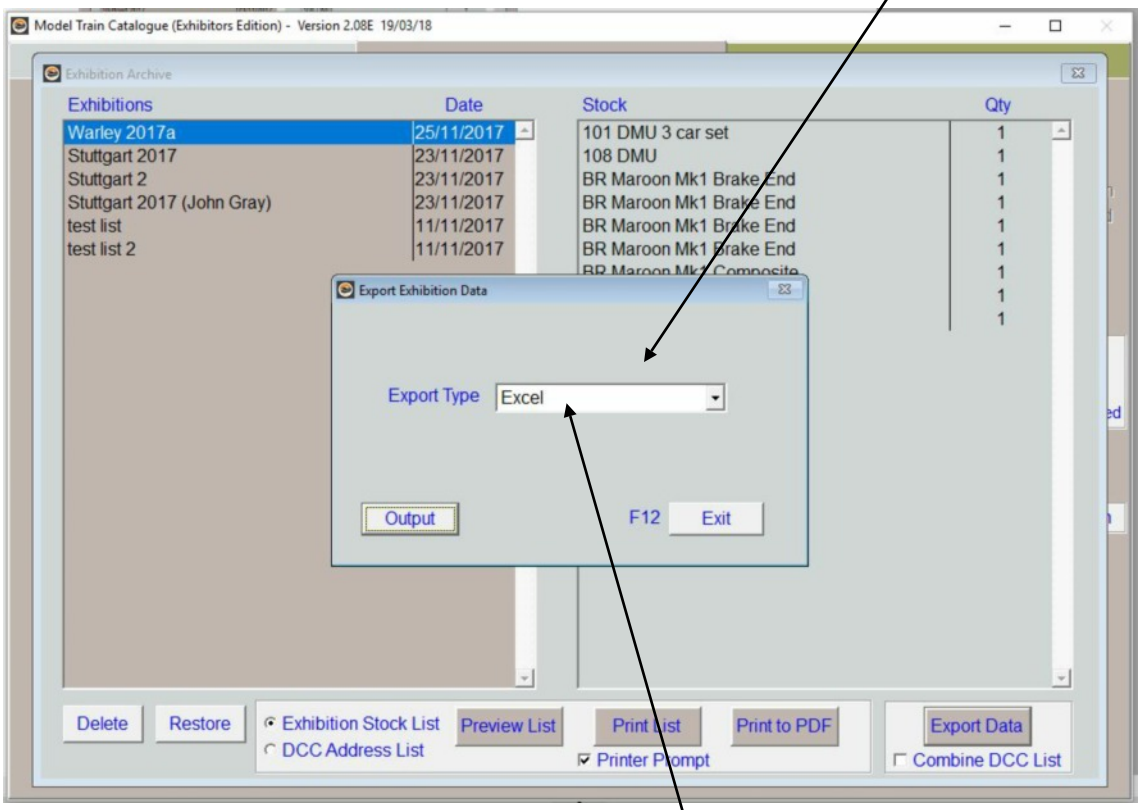
# **Exhibition List** - Exporting from Archive




Select Report Required

Preview, Print, Print to PDF buttons. PDF printer used is set in the Reports screen. Printer prompt option available too.

The 'Export Data' button brings up this screen where the type of output file can be selected

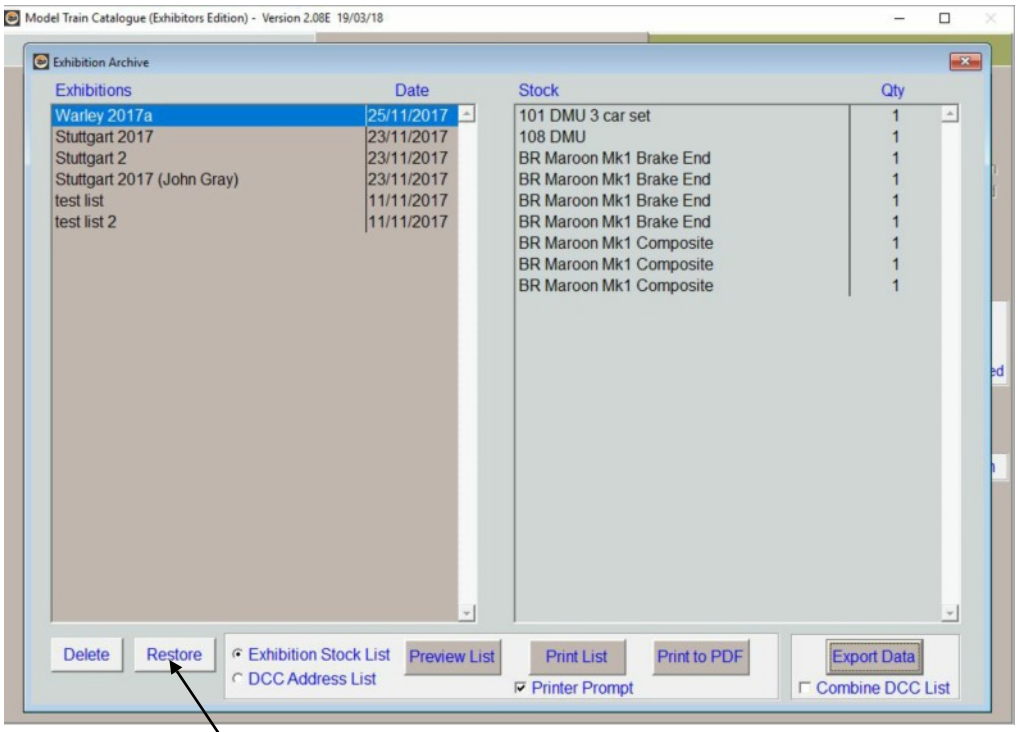



Select Type of Export required:

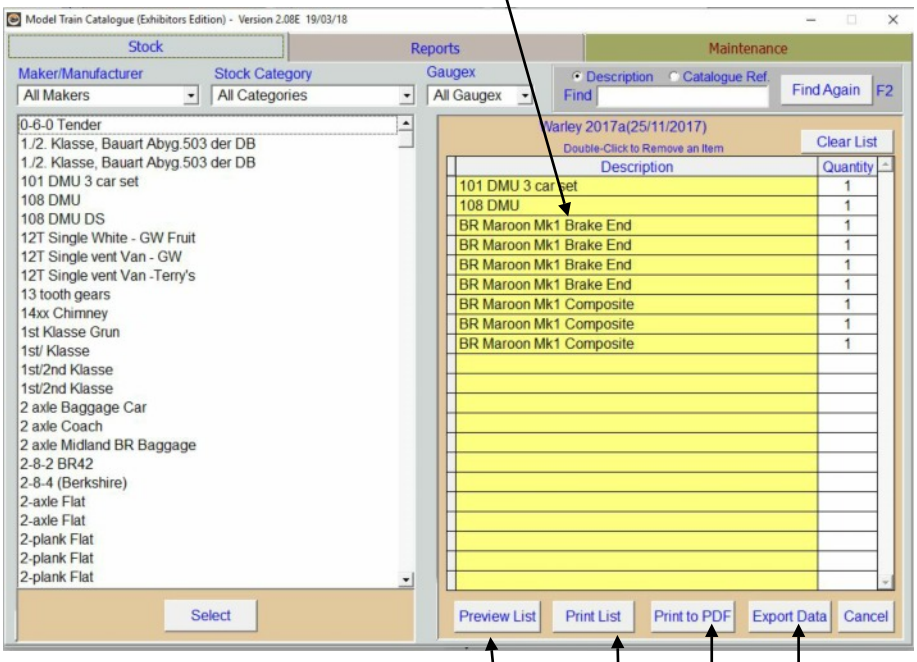
- Excel
- Comma Separated (CSV)
- Delimited Text File (TXT)
- Undelimited Text File (SDF)
- Xbase (DBF)
- XML (Windows - 1252)

The Output File name comprises the Name and Date of the exhibition and is placed in the Documents folder.

# **Exhibition List** - Restore Archive

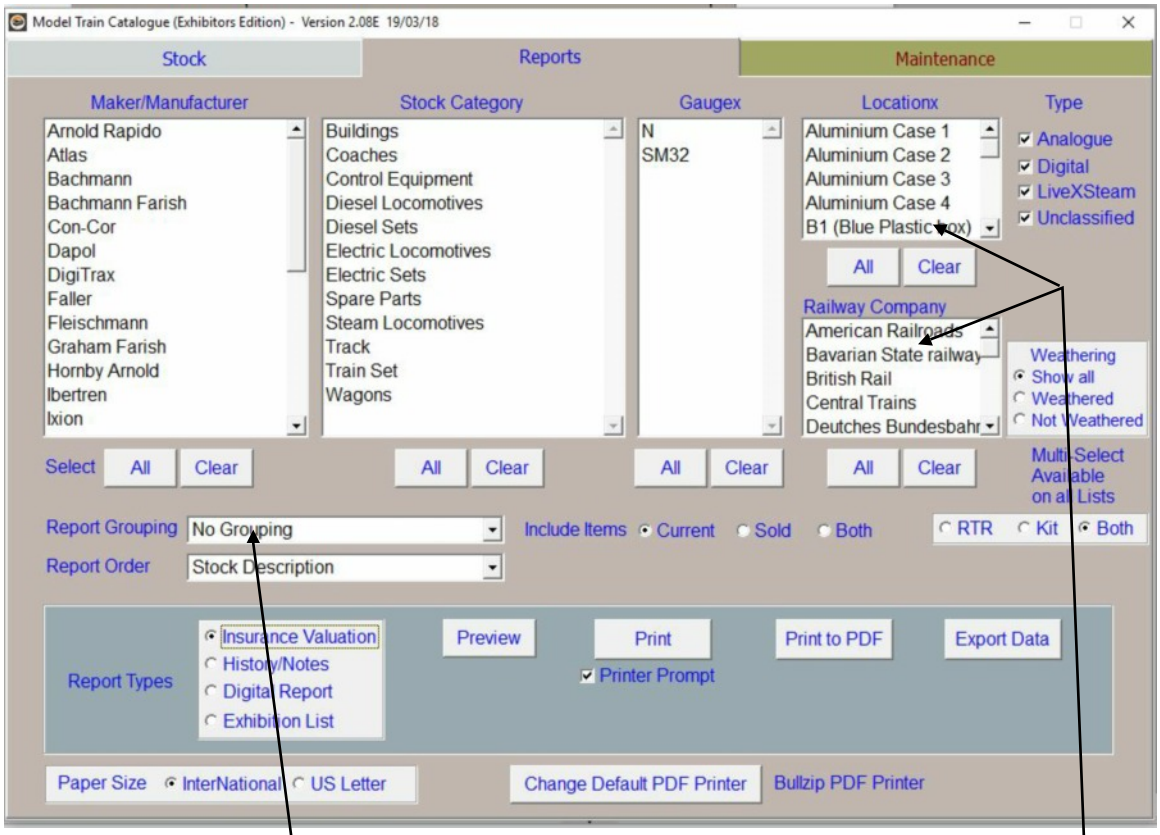



Restore button will reload the selected Exhibition List




**Important**:To save any changes made to the Archive, the list will have to be Previewed, Printed or the Data Exported.

# **Reports** - Self Named List

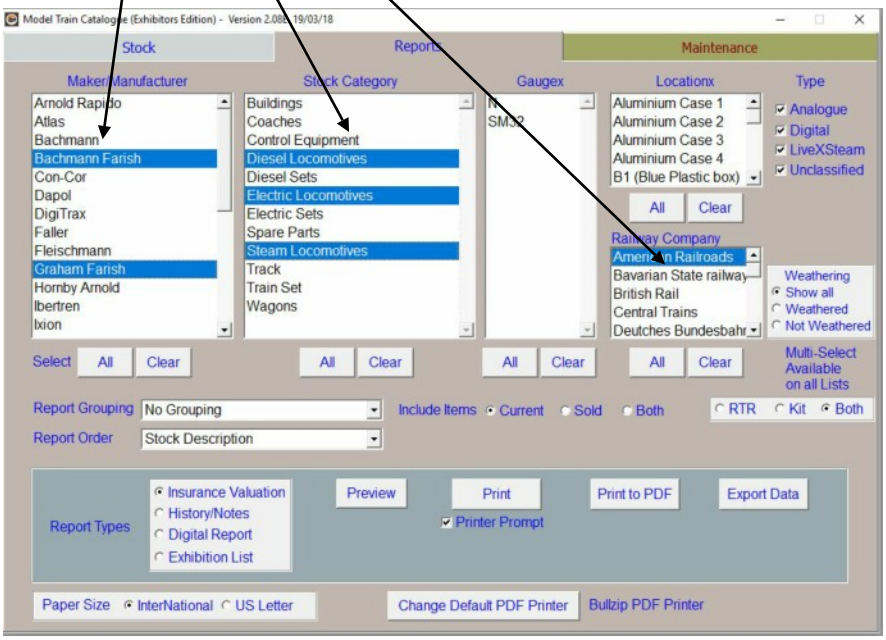



Like the other Multi-Select Lists, the Self Named List will appear in the Report Grouping List when more than one item is selected.

When the Self Named List is visible on the Stock Page then a change occurs on the Reports page.

To make room for the Self Named List the Location List shortens but still holds all the Locations entered that are used by the Stock Data.

The Self Named List appears underneath.

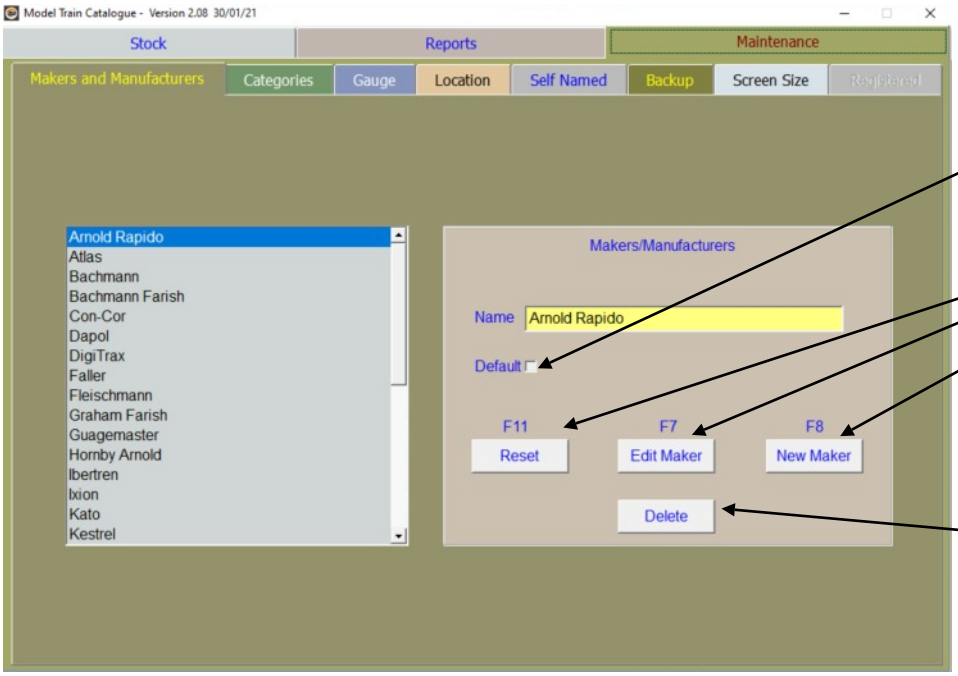


# Maintenance

To populate the Manufactures selection list, Stock Category list and Gauge list on the Stock screen, three Maintenance screens are provided. All the screens work in a similar fashion.

The purposes behind these lists is a) to ensure complete data integrity when reporting, b) to save typing data multiple times, c) to allow the user the freedom to add any values to any of the lists thereby tailoring the catalogue definitions to their own collection.

## Manufacturers/Makers

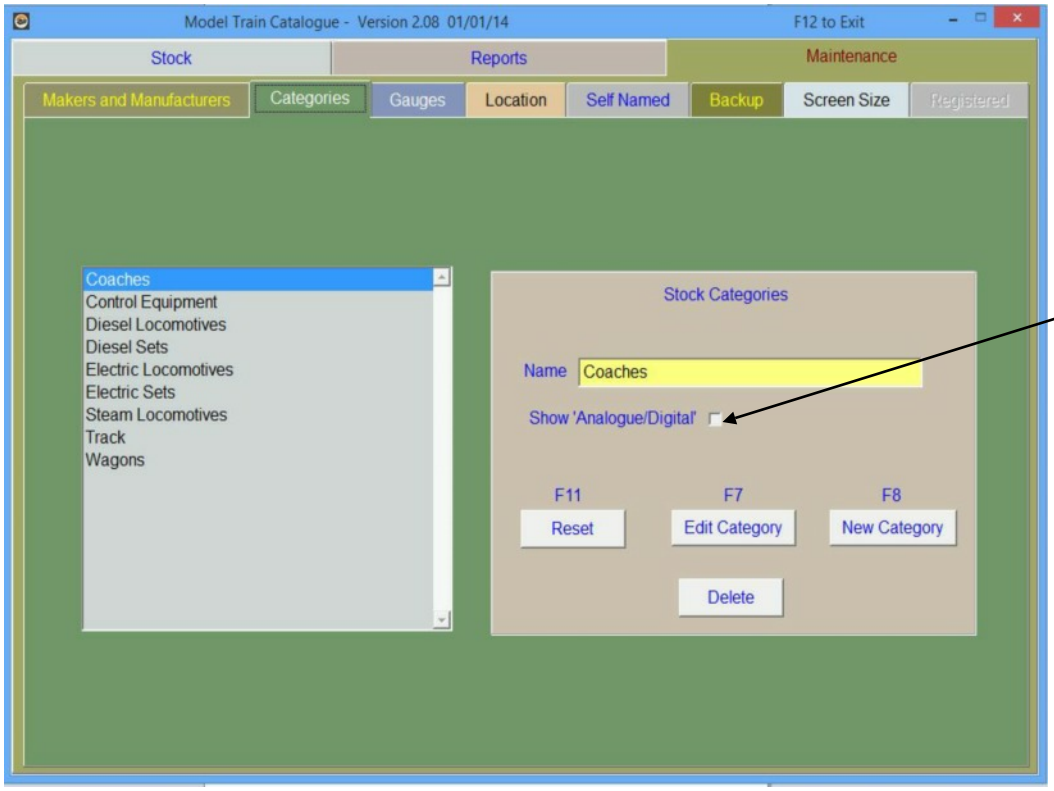



Set the Default Manufacturer

'New', 'Edit' and 'Reset' buttons allow data to be entered and changed.

'Delete' button will remove the record only if it is not in use by an item.

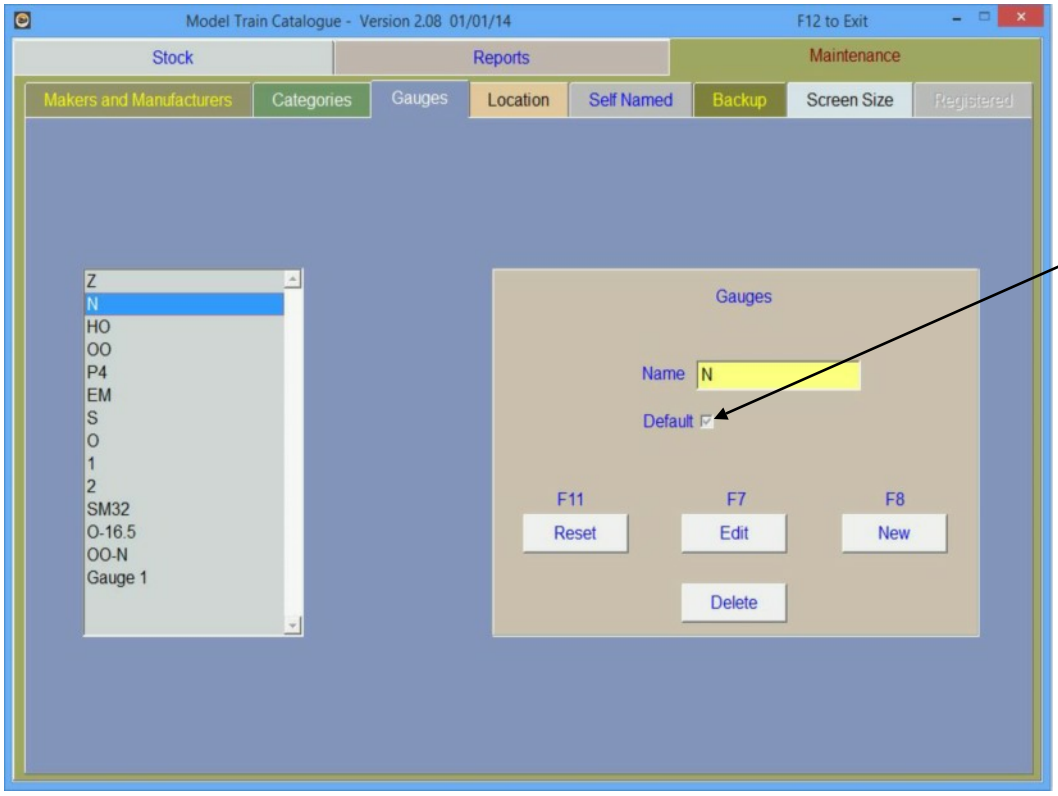
## Categories




Select 'Show Analogue/Digital' if relevant to the category. It shows or hides the 'Type' on the Stock page.

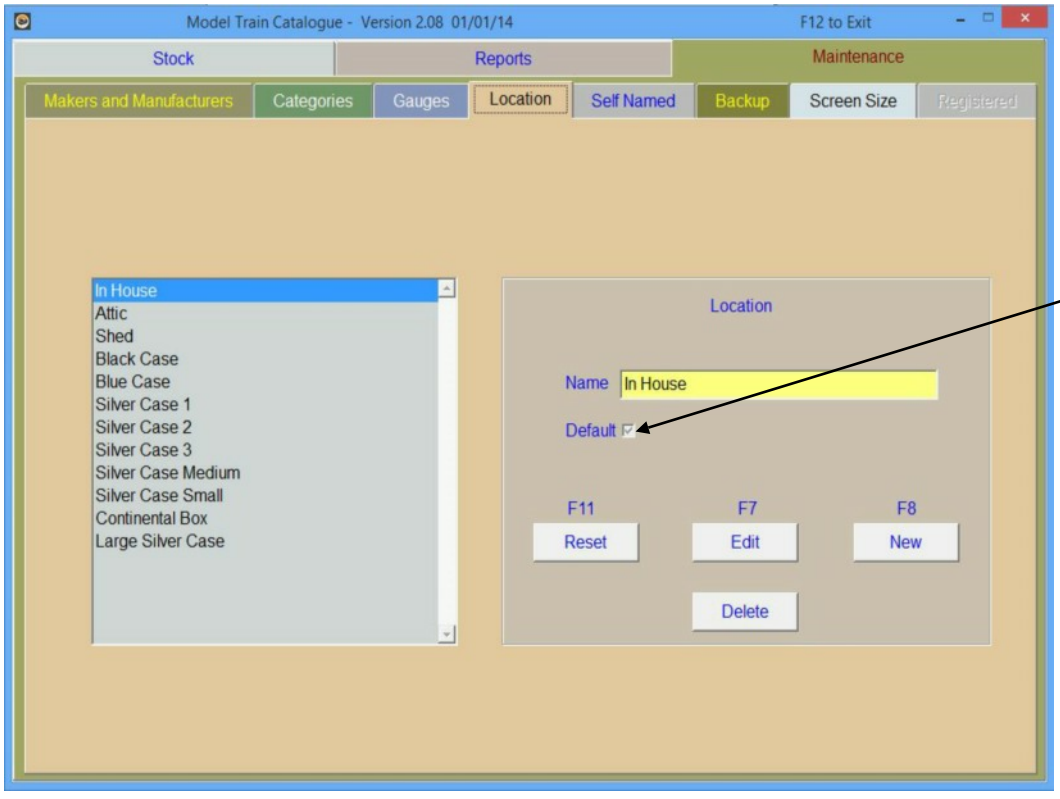
'Locomotives' could be Analogue or Digital and this should be ticked but as Wagons would be neither this would be un-ticked.

## Gauges




Tick to select this Gauge as the default gauge. It affects the default on the Stock page for Gauge selection on New Items.

## Locations

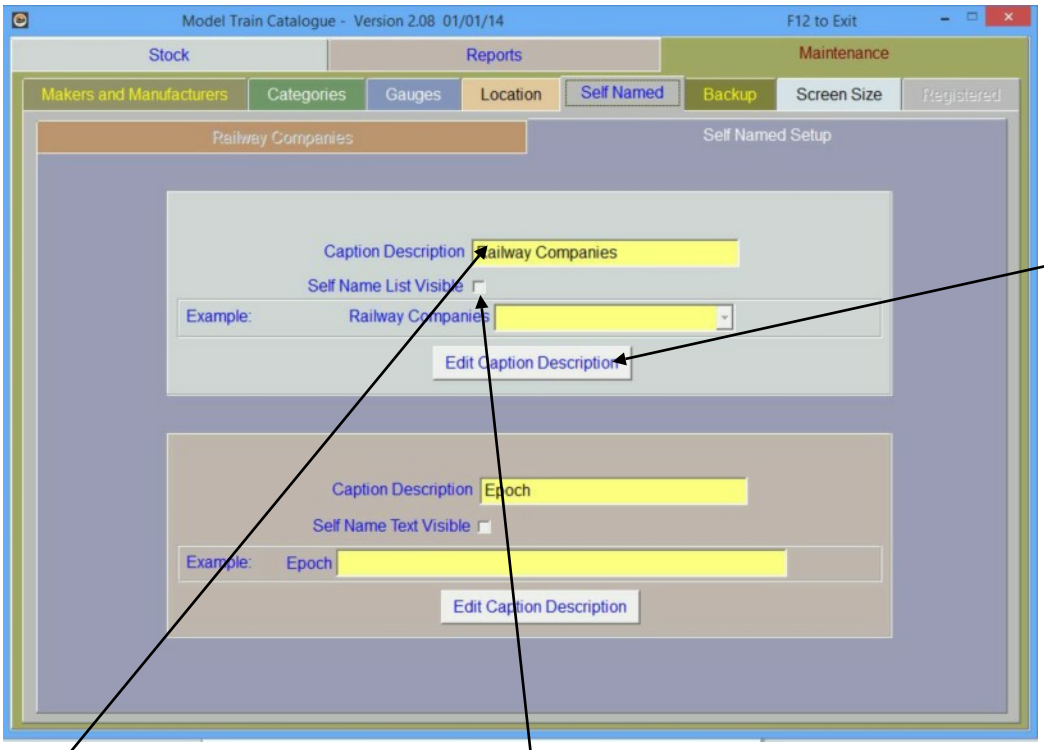



Tick to select this Location as the default gauge. It affects the default on the Stock page for Location selection on New Items.

# Self Named Fields

Two Self Named fields are provided for the user to title and use to meet their own special needs. These are invisible on the Stock page until activated in the Maintenance/Self Named page. One of the fields provides a List, working similarly to Makers, Categories, etc. but will contain the users specified data type e.g. Railway Companies, Epoch, Country. The other is a simple Text box. Both fields each allow up to 40 characters to be entered.

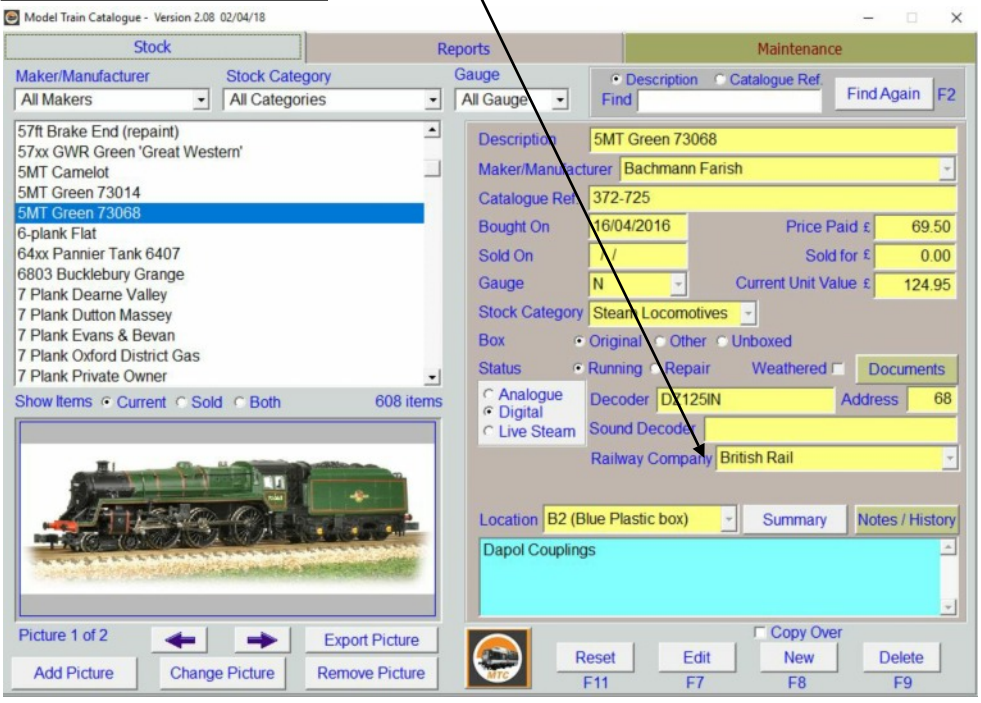
## Self Named List:




To Edit the Caption and make the field visible on the Stock page first Click the 'Edit Caption.

Enter the description here e.g. 'Railway Companies'

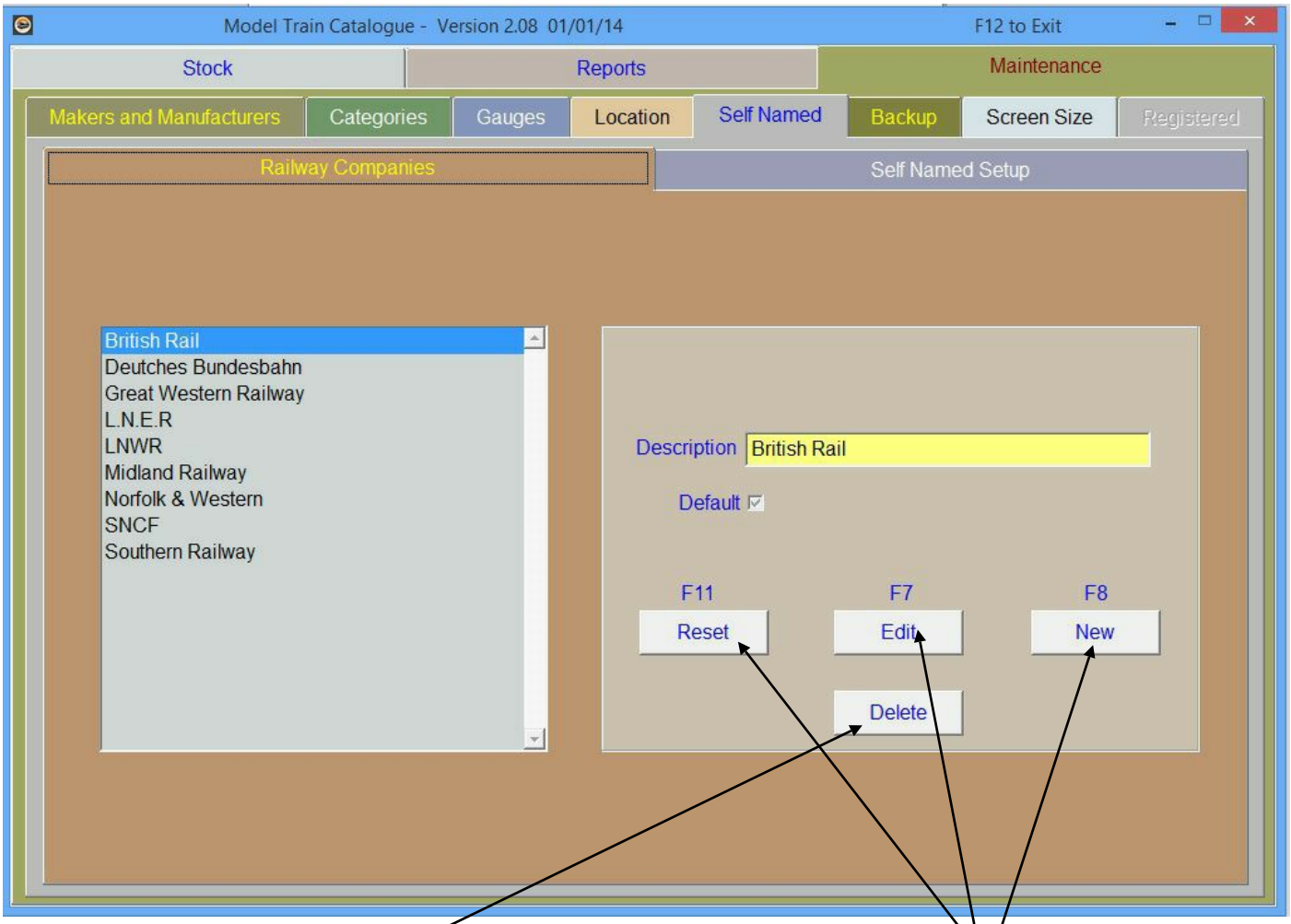
Tick the box to make it visible on the stock page.




To ensure that the Self Named List and its caption fit in the space available, the longer the description the shorter the List box will be (and vice versa). However, this does not affect the length of data held by the field which is limited to 50 characters. It is just that not all characters will be visible.

# **Self Named List** - Capturing Data

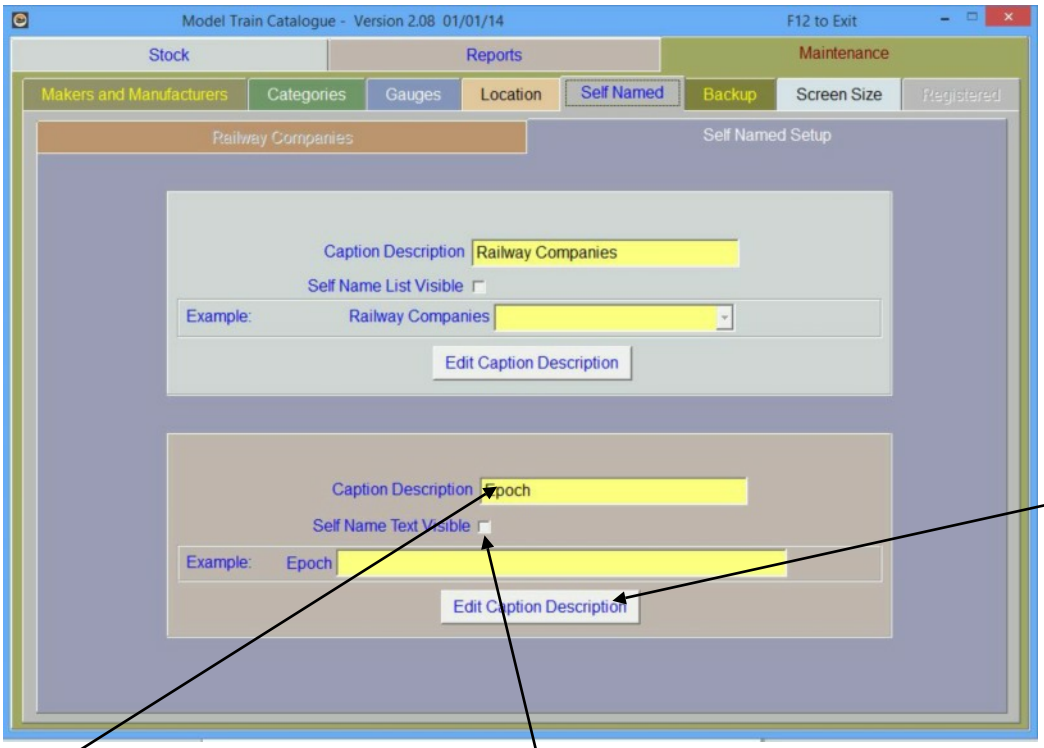
This Page only becomes active when the Self Named List is visible on the Stock Page.




'Delete' button will remove the record only if it is not in use by an item.

'New', 'Edit' and 'Reset' buttons allow data to be entered and changed.

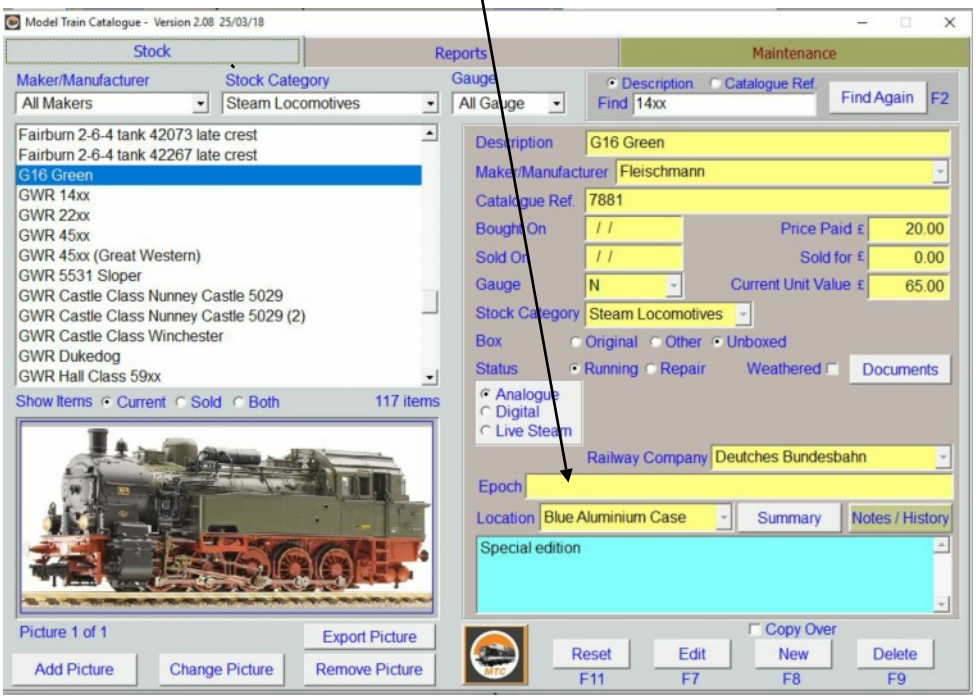
## **Self Named Text**:




To Edit the Caption and make the field visible on the Stock page first Click the 'Edit Caption Description' button

Enter the description here e.g. Epoch.

Tick the box to make it visible on the stock screen

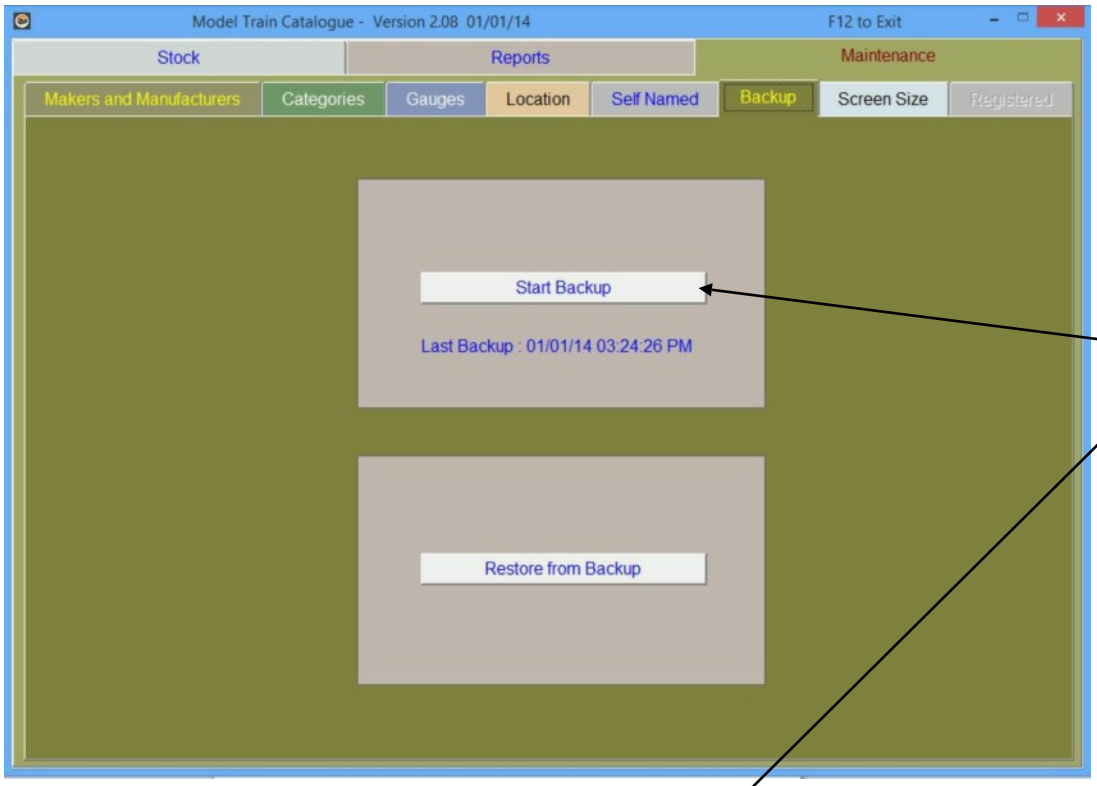



To ensure that the Self Named Text and its caption fit in the space available, the longer the description the shorter the Text box will be (and vice versa). However, this does not affect the length of data held by the field which is limited to 50 characters. It is just that not all characters will be visible.

# Backup and Restore

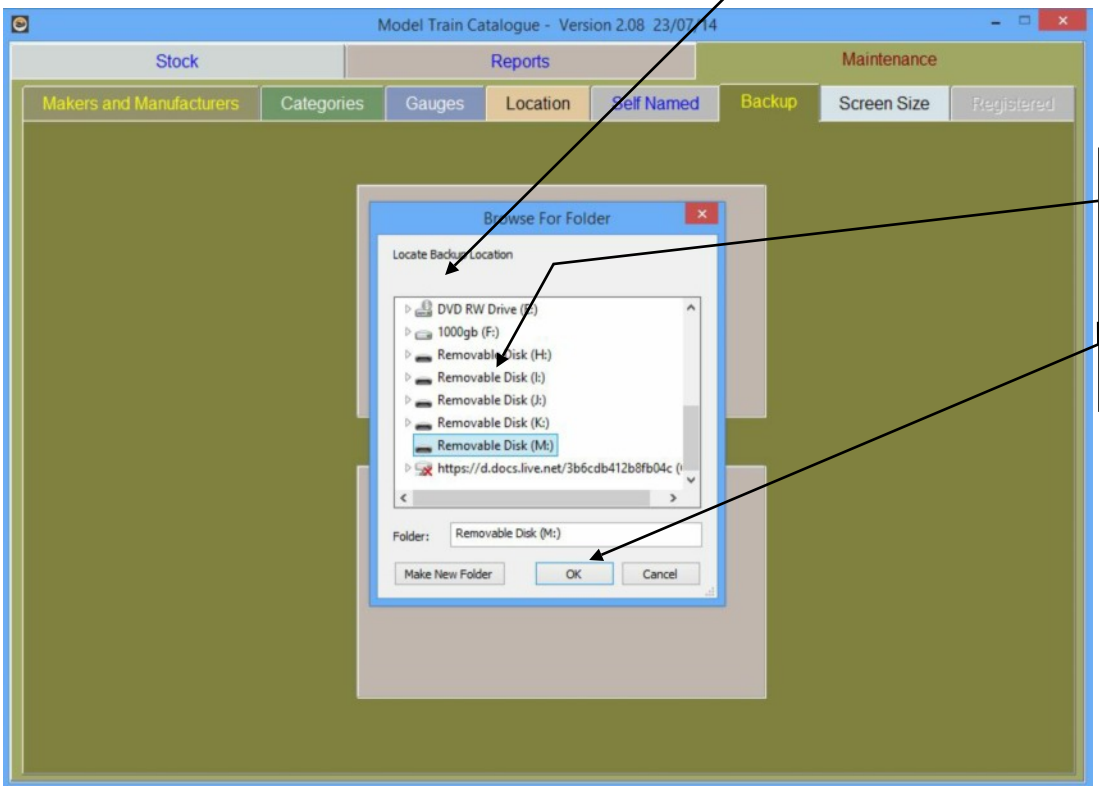
To help preserve your data from accidental loss the Backup and Restore feature is available.

## Backup




Click the 'Start Backup' button.

This shows this dialogue box.



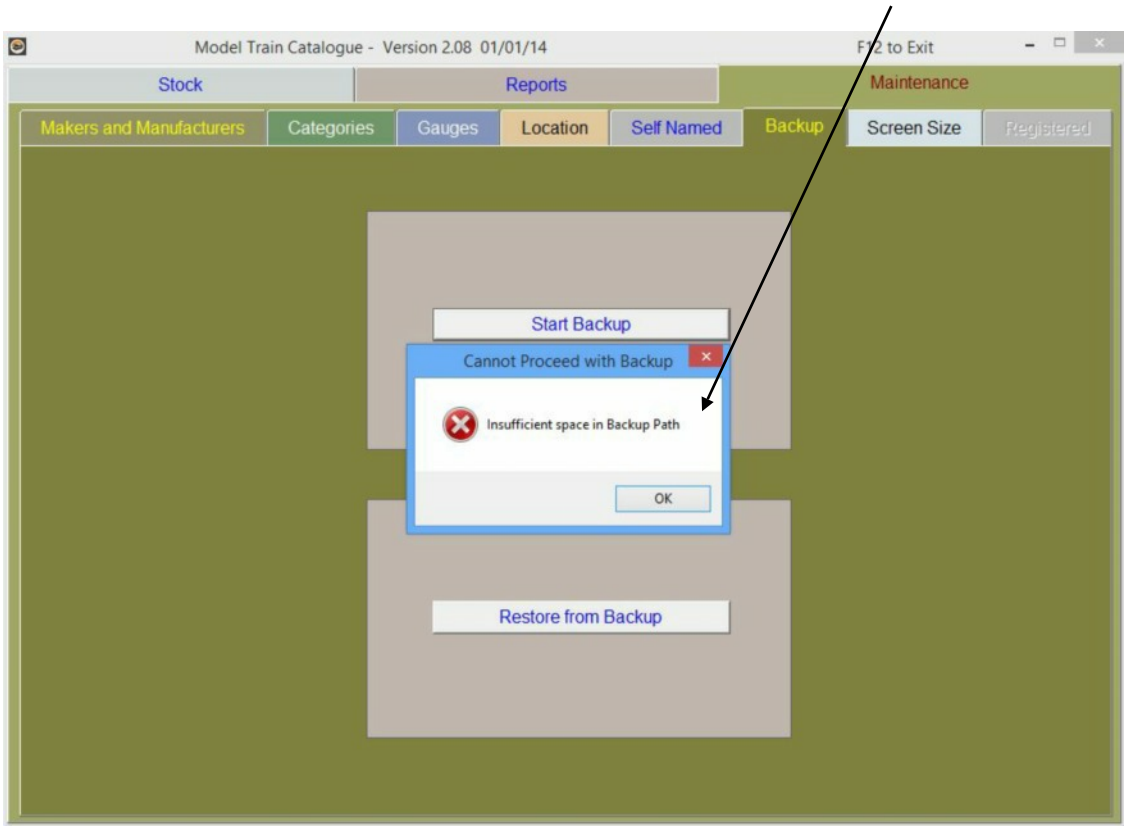

Select the backup location or device.

Click the 'OK' button to start the backup process.

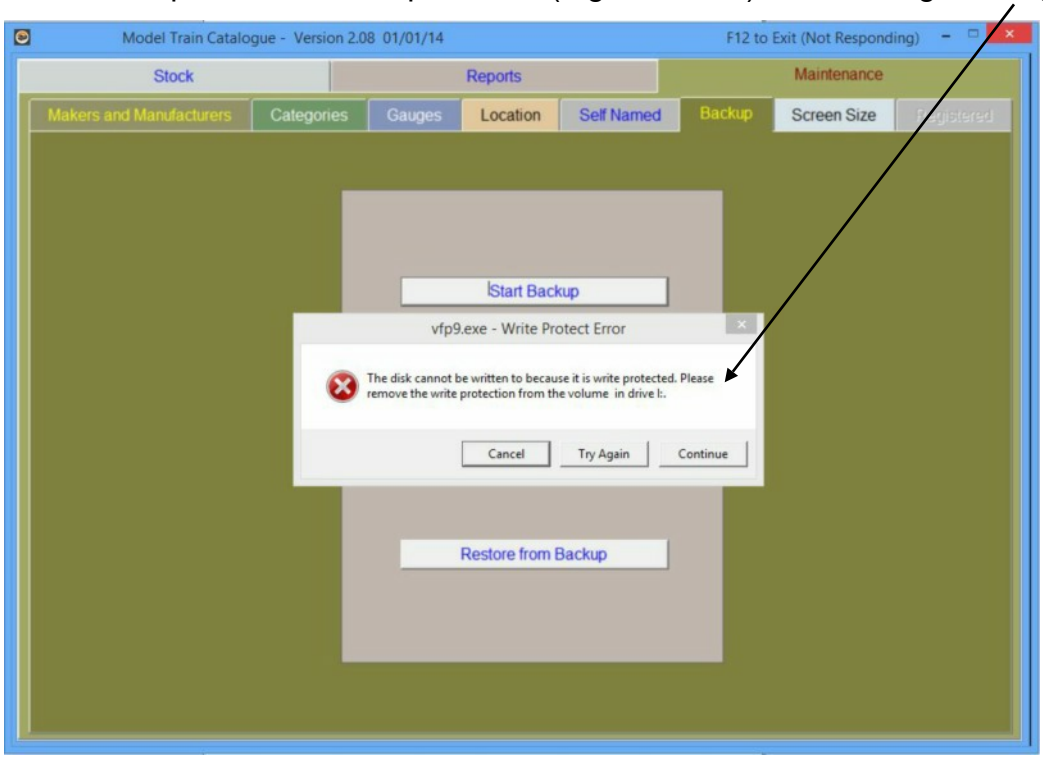
Select your Backup Device/Location. This can be any drive except the one that MTC is installed on. You can backup to a memory stick, cloud, external hard drive or another internal hard drive by selecting it in the dialogue box.
A new folder will be created for the backup files underneath the selected location and named 'MTCEBackupYYYYMMDD' where 'YYYYMMDD' is the date of the backup.

# **Backup** - Warning Messages

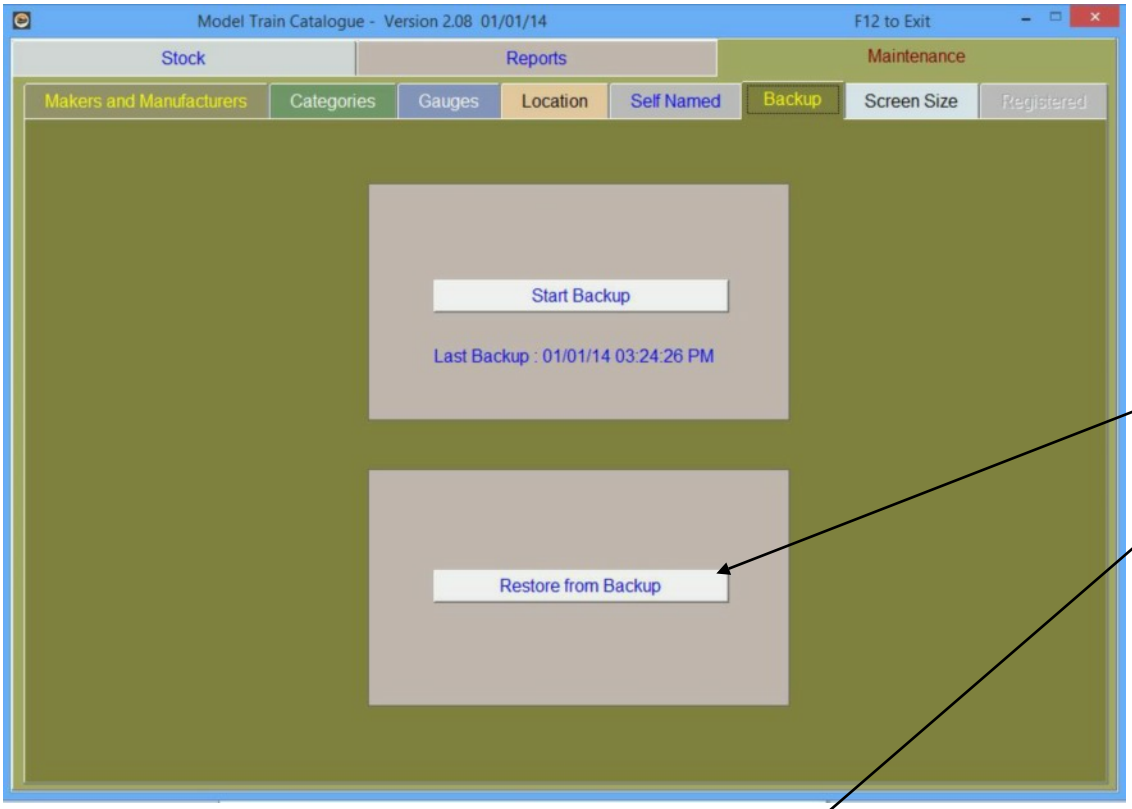
Insufficient space on the backup device will result in this warning message.




If the backup device is write protected (e.g. SD Card) this warning message will show.

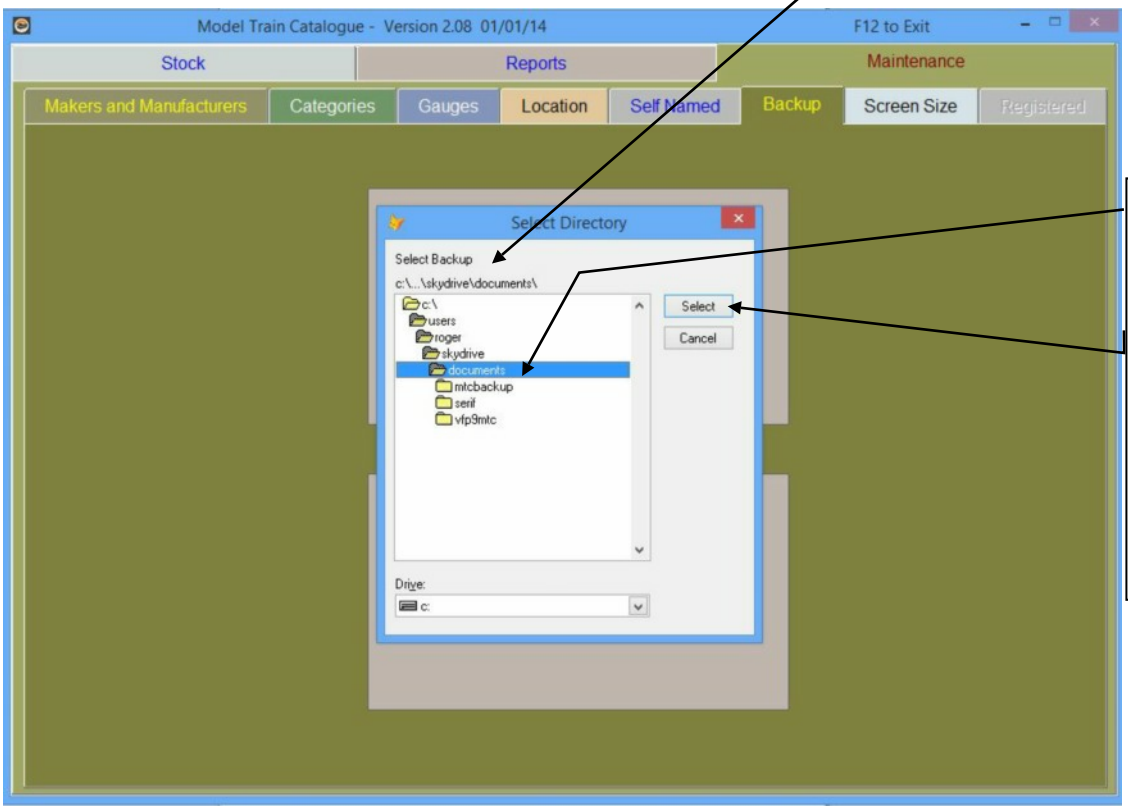


# Restore Data




Click the 'Restore from Backup' button.

This shows this dialogue box.




Select the backup location or device.

Click the 'Select' button to start the Restore process.

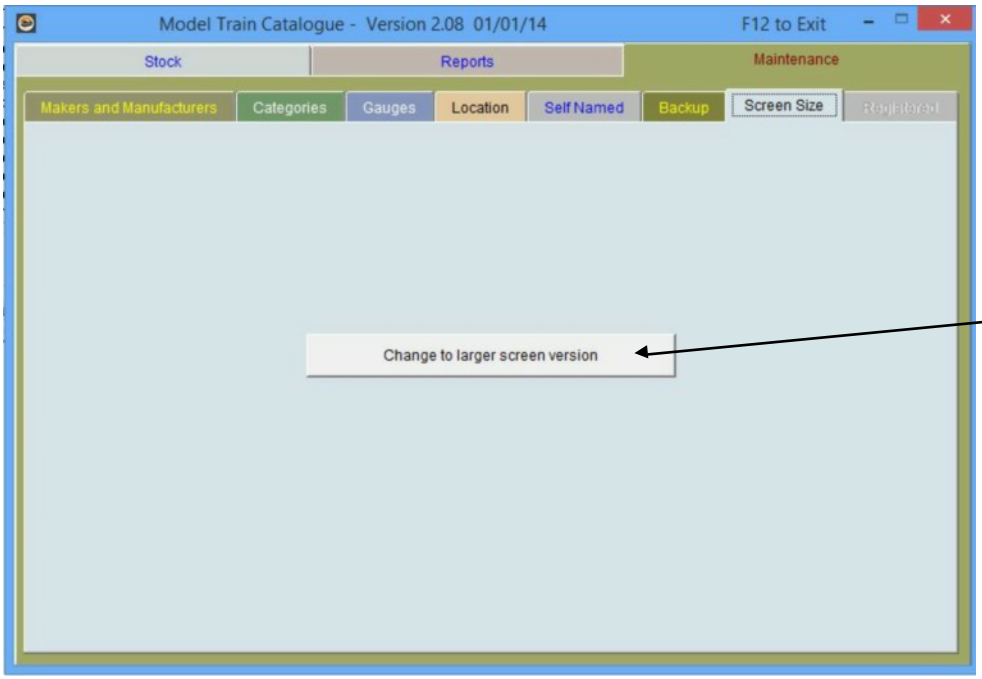
At the end of the process MTC will request that it is shutdown and restarted.

Restore will overwrite any data already in MTC. This feature is not only for post calamity data survival but also useful for moving data to another computer where MTC is installed.

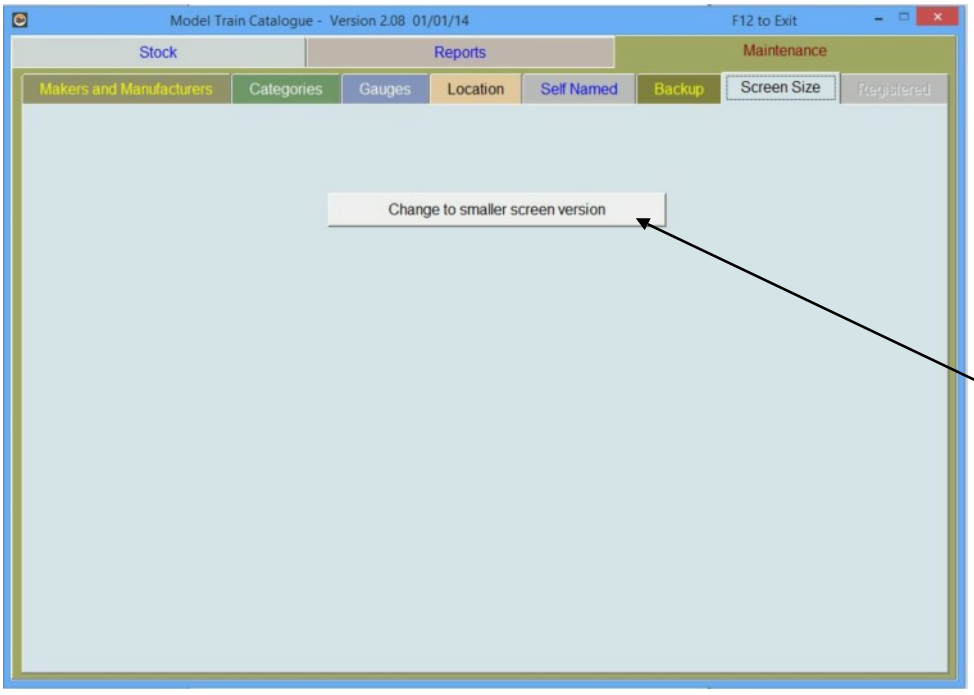
Always close MTC before shutting down your computer otherwise data loss will occur. Similarly if the computer crashes whilst MTC us running there could be data loss. After a calamity, there is an index repair tool downloadable from the MTC website to ensure that MTC is running efficiently.

## Screen Size

There are two screen sizes available. The smaller screen is for vertical screen resolutions less than 768 pixels. The larger screen is for vertical screen resolutions greater than 767 pixels. The smaller screen is for PC's running in low resolutions or Netbook/Laptops with smaller vertical screen sizes. The larger screen will never be available if the vertical resolution is less than 768.




If the smaller screen size is in use then the larger screen can be switched to by Clicking this button.




If the larger screen size is in use then the smaller screen can be switched to by Clicking this button.

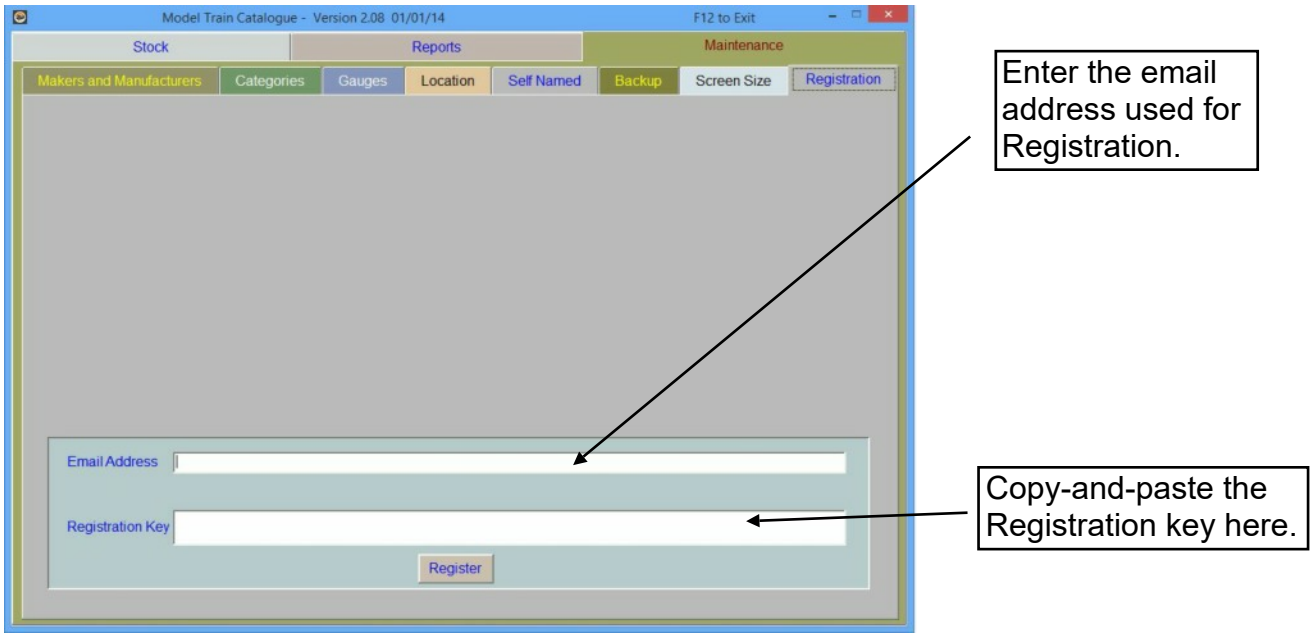
It will be necessary to restart the Model Train Catalogue program to change the screen size.

# Licence Registration

Until the software is registered the maximum number of items that can be input is ten. The ‘New’ button on the Stock page will become disabled once this limit is reached. Once registered the maximum number of items that can be input is two billion.

Registration is done after from email that is returned with the Registration key in response to the PayPal notification of payment. Because of the length of the registration key, it would be best to copy-and-paste it into the Registration key field from the email.

Please note that the registration key generation cannot be fully automated and at certain times, such as late at night, there may be a delay in sending it out to you.



## The Quantity Box

Some MTC users have requested the ability to enter a quantity for an item. Typically, for where a rake of identical wagons is to be entered. However, the consequences of having a single record for a quantity of a set of identical items are that if individual items in that set require separate recording of details at a later stage then difficulties will ensue - Example: if one wagon in a set of identical wagons is damaged or sold then it cannot be separated out to individual attention to the data. Also, with only one buying date, it would have to be assumed that all were bought on one day.

To overcome this problem, MTC is designed on a 'one record per item' basis with a 'Copy Over' tick-box to speed up the entry process per individual item. This gives the individual control over a batch of identical items with minimised data entry effort.

However, some MTC users may still have the need for a 'Quantity' box in spite of the loss of individual item detail control. By adding an empty file called QTY.TXT into the C:\MTC folder, the Quantity box becomes available for use on the Stock page. Also, the Insurance Reports and item Summary will show the Quantity, (individual) item value and Total Value (Quantity x Individual item value). When entering prices and values only the single, individual item value should be entered.

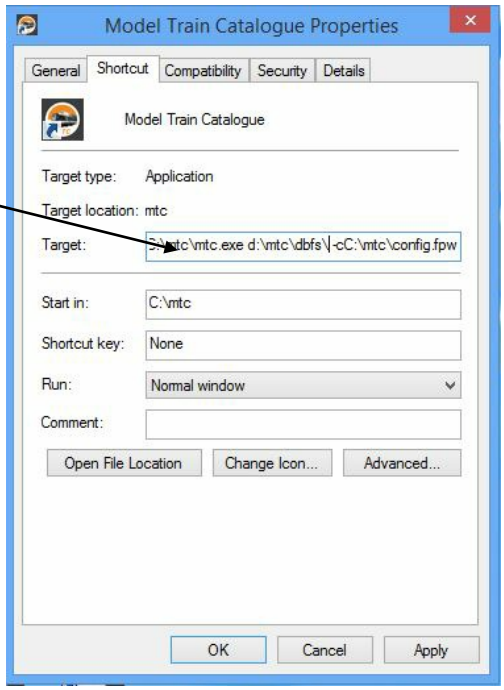
When the QTY.TXT file is not present, then the default quantity is always recorded as 1.

## Upgrading the Program

Downloading and Installing another Demo program from MTC Website will upgrade your current version without upsetting your Registration or Data. Always wise to make a backup of data first though. Access to the Model Train Catalogue can be made quickly by Clicking on the MTC logo bottom centre on the Stock page.

## Using a Cloud or Network Drive for MTC data

1. Right-Click on the MTC Shortcut
2. Select 'Properties' with a Left-Click
3. The Target line has to be changed

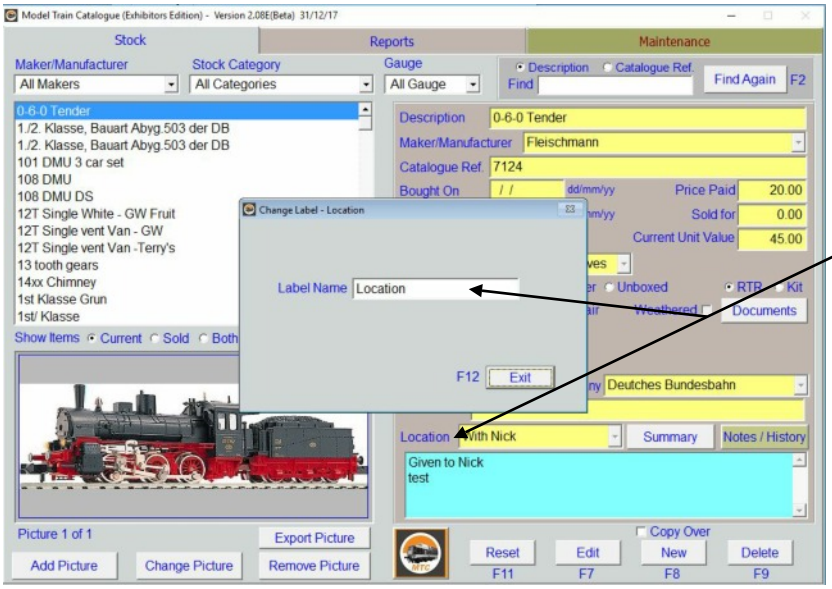



The Target line comprises three parts:
C:\mtc\mtc.exe C:\mtc\dbfs\ -cC:\mtc\config.fpw

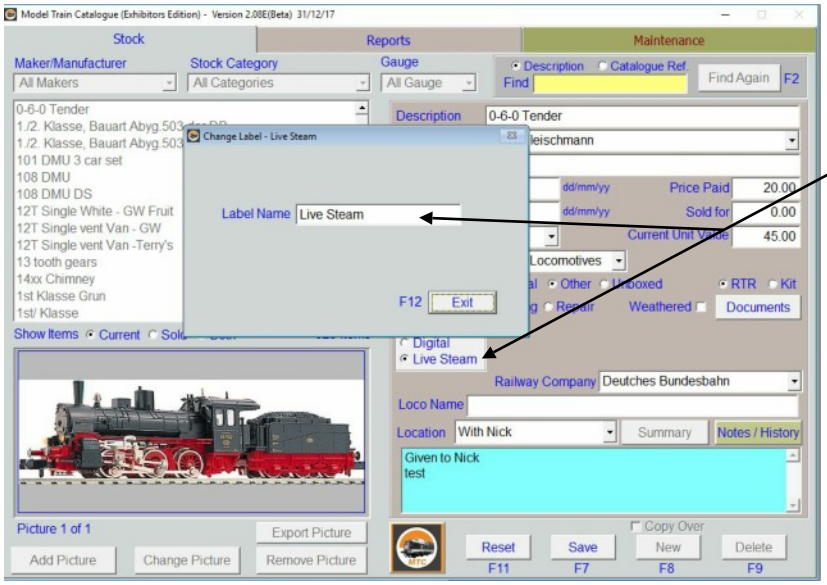
a) C:\mtc\mtc.exe - Program Call
b) C:\mtc\dbfs\ - Data Location
c) -cC:\mtc\config.fpw - Configuration File

There is a space between each part.
Leave a) and c) as they are.
Change b) to point to the desired data path
Example: D:\mtc\dbfs\
Target line should then look like this:
C:\mtc\mtc.exe D:\mtc\dbfs\ -cC:\mtc\config.fpw
Cloud Example: C:\users\{username}\onedrive\
Left-Click 'Apply' and 'OK' to complete.
Google Drive Example:
C:\mtc\mtc.exe "c:\users*username*\google drive\mtc1\dbfs\" -cC:\mtc\config.fpw
BT Cloud Example:
C:\mtc\mtc.exe "C:\users*username*\bt cloud\mtc\dbfs\" -cC:\mtc\config.fpw
Left-Click 'Apply' and 'OK' to complete.
Substitute the correct user name for *username.*

# Quick Tips

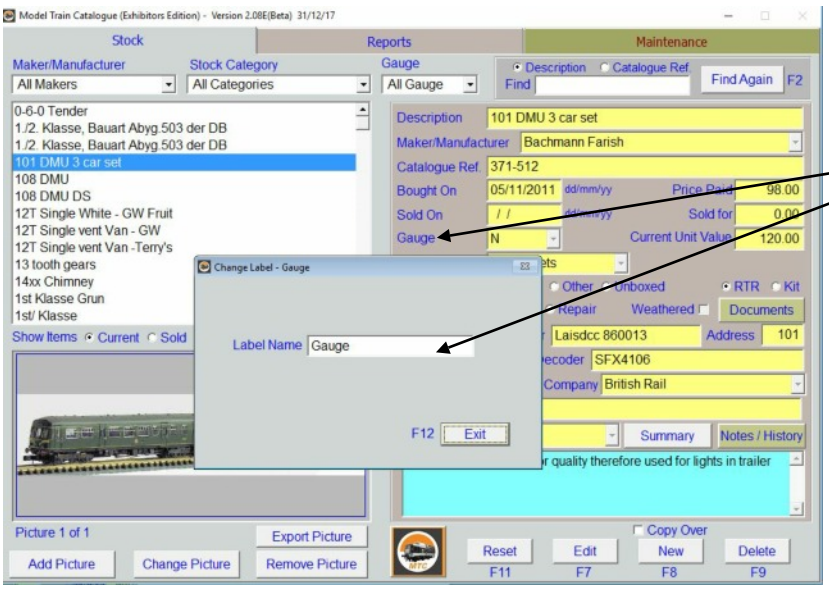



Double-Click on the label 'Location' and this box comes up so that you can rename it to some other use. This will also change the labels on the Reports and Maintenance/Location pages. Try not to make it too long a name!




Click on the 'Edit' button first. Then Double-Click on the label 'Live Steam' label and this box comes up so that you can rename it to some other use. This will also change the labels on the Reports page. Try not to make it too long a name!

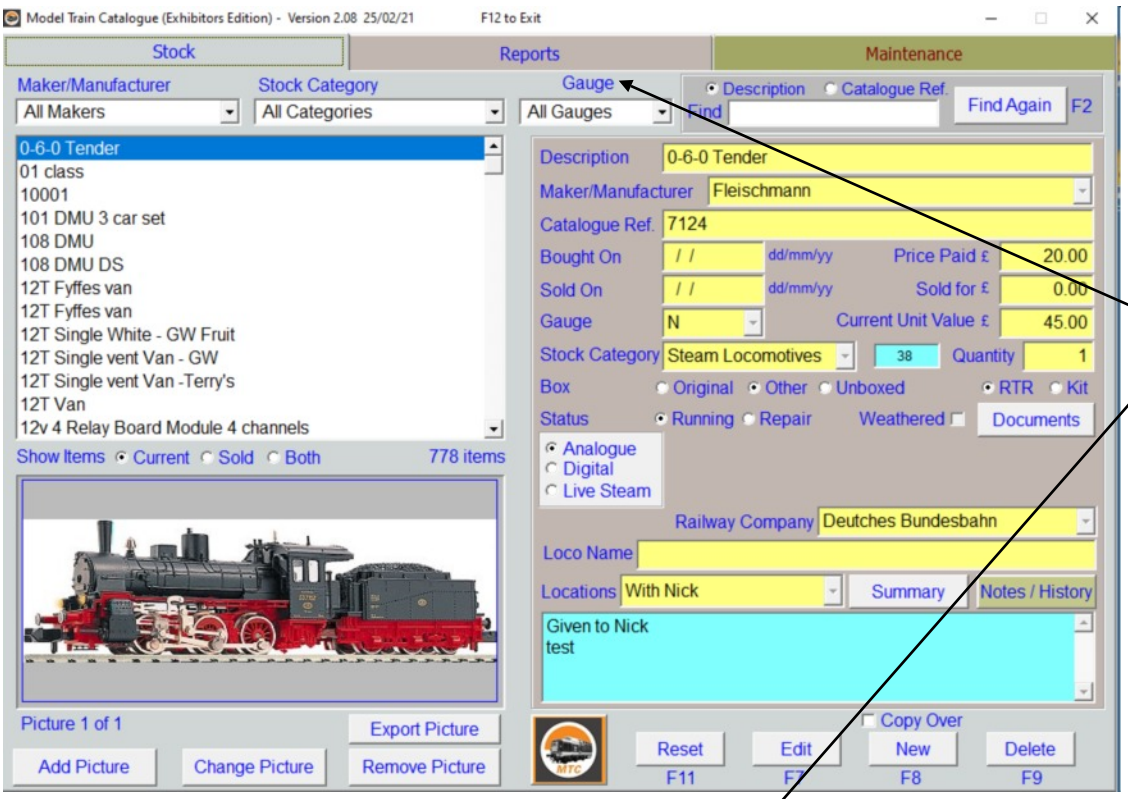
Click 'Exit' and then 'Save' or 'Reset' to complete the change.



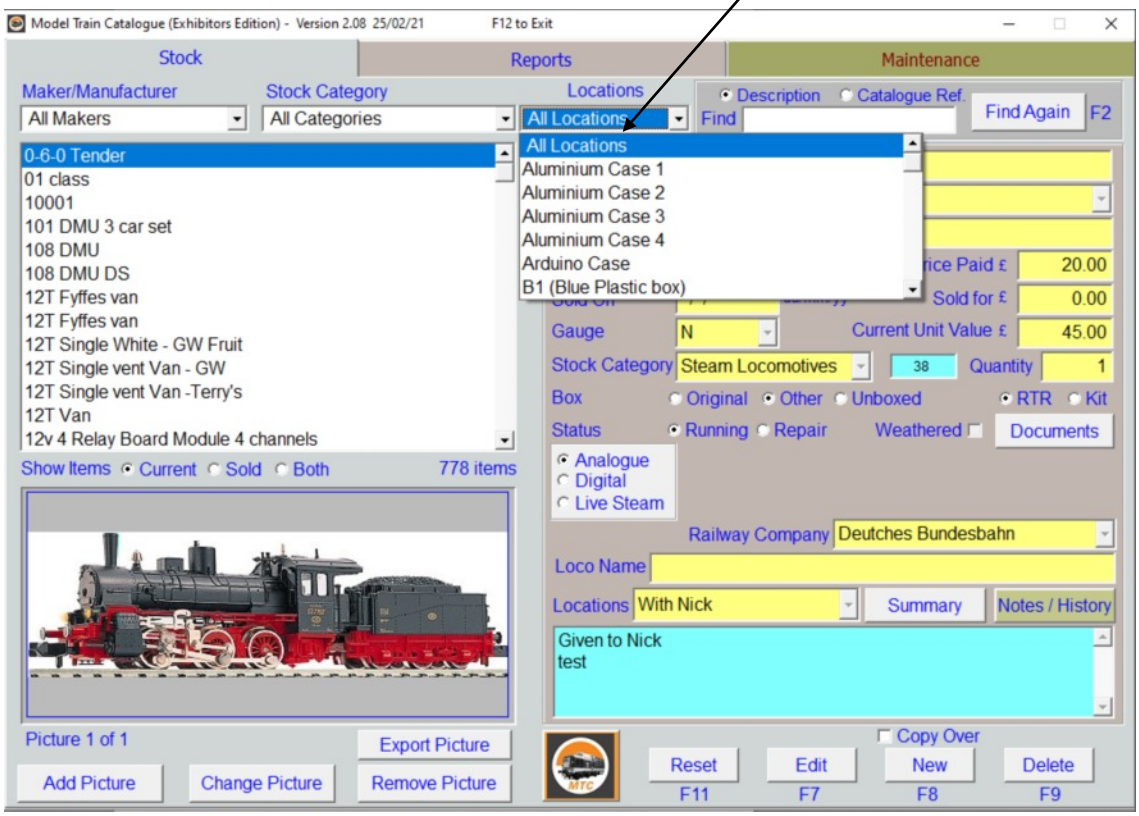

If you only collect one gauge, Double-Click on the label 'Gauge' and this box comes up so that you can rename it to some other use. This will also change the labels on the Reports and Maintenance/Guage pages. Try not to make it too long a name!

# Quick Tips - continued

Swapping Filters



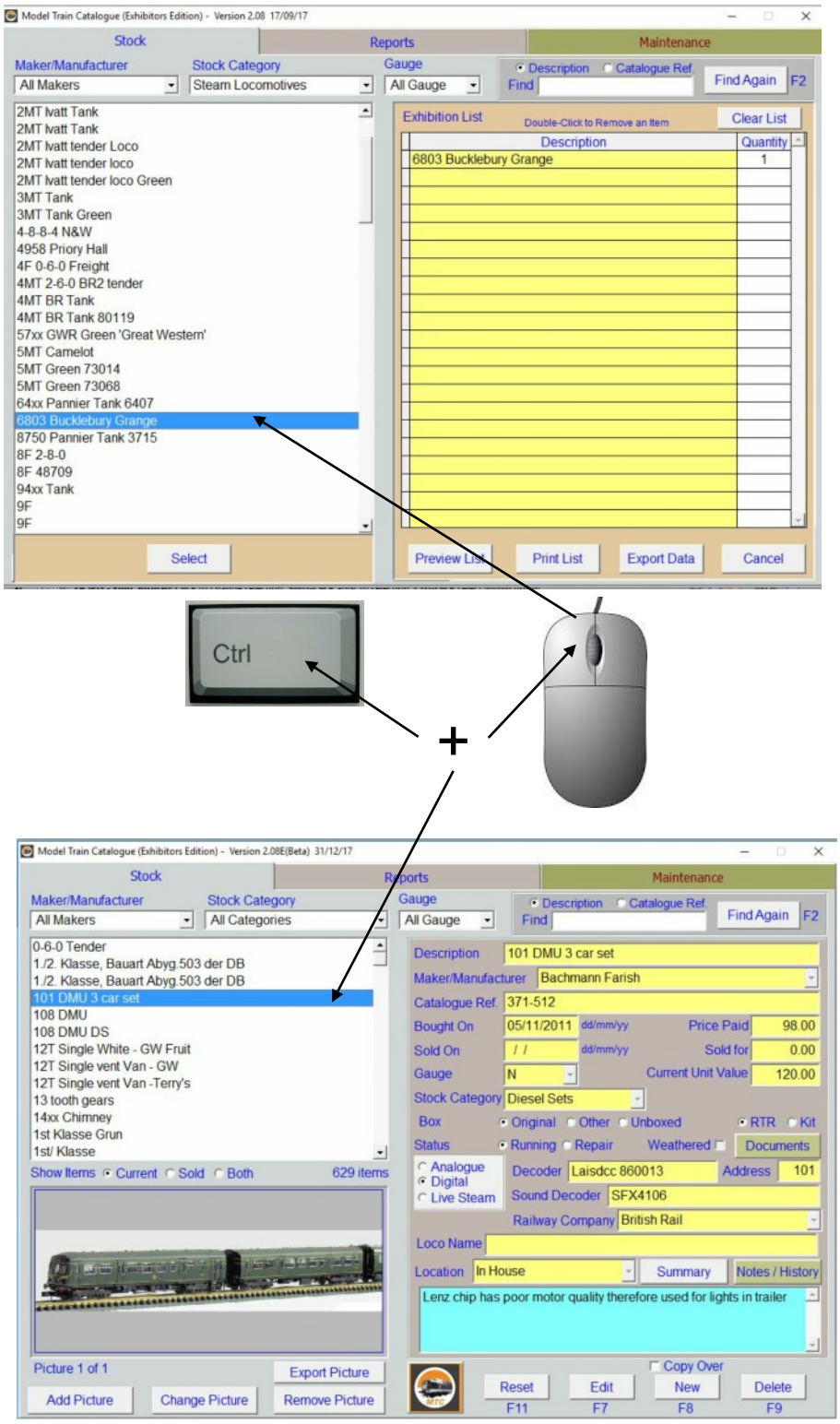

Double-Click the Label 'Gauge' and the 'Location' list will replace




This will allow the main list to be filtered by 'Location'
Double-Click on the 'Location' label to return to 'Gauge' list.
This feature will work even if either or both 'Gauge' and 'Location' have been renamed for a different use of these lists.

# Quick Tips - continued

Checking the Selection for the Exhibition List




When compiling the items for your Exhibition List and you have multiple items with the same type of description you can check exactly which item you are on by holding the Ctrl key and then holding down the Mouse button.

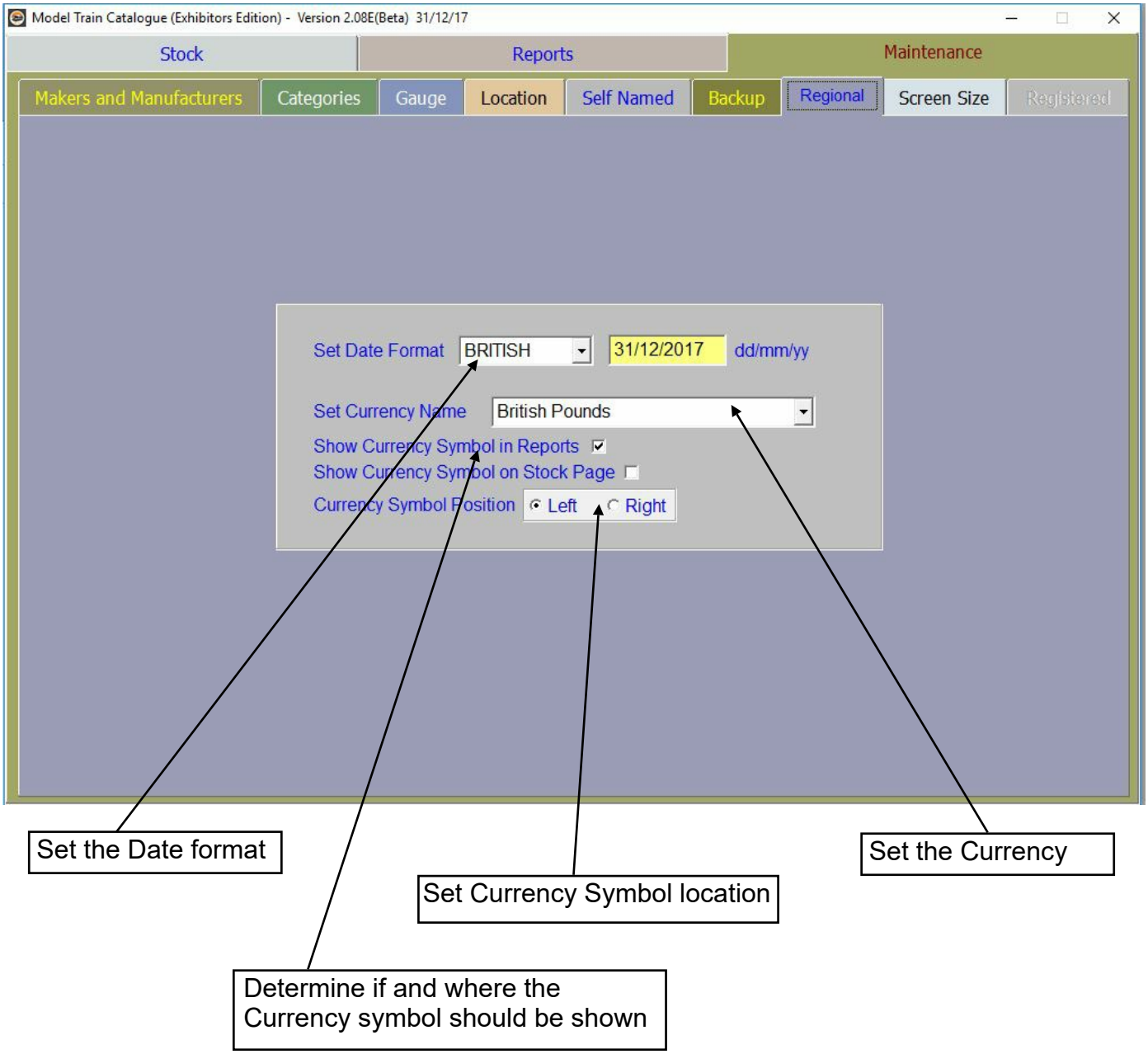
Release the Mouse button and Ctrl key to resume compiling the list.

Return to top and clear Find box

Right-Click on any of these lists will return it to the 'All' position.

Right-Click to Clear the Find box

# Regional Settings




On the very first time MTC is run it will attempt to assess the Region/Country and appropriate Currency from the computer's own settings. The computer may have incorrect settings.