

Resene TradeLines

December 2001



“Another year has sped by with Xmas almost here. I can't wait for all that yummy Xmas food and drink, let alone the presents and the time off work! Thanks to all of you for taking time out to read Tradelines... hopefully you have learnt some tips and tricks along the way and managed a few chuckles at our jokes. Of course, you have kept me extra busy writing, so at least the boss is happy. Have a very (not too!) merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Seasons Greetings from everyone at Resene - we'll see you all in 2002! ”

Telling Tales

At Resene we like to do things a little differently... after all, there's nothing quite like breaking the rules every now and then. Funny though, how often we stick to the old rules because it just seems too hard to change.

The next time you hear someone say, "Because we've always done it this way" think of this...

The US standard railway gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

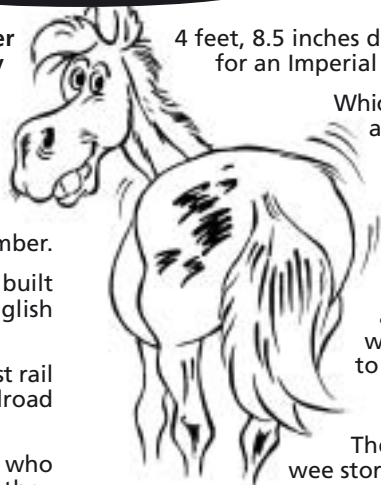
Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they needed for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots first formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of



4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

Which just goes to show that specifications and bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's **** came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

There's an interesting extension to this wee story...

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thicol at their factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's ****!

Tips 'n Tricks

Painters' Punch

Ah, now summer is here, I bet most of you are hanging out for a cool beer at the end of each long hot day. But how about trying something a little different to serve at your Xmas party - if nothing else, it might distract all your other guests away from your precious stash of beer!

MERRY PAINTER PUNCH

500ml grape juice	500ml lemonade	500ml Malibu
500ml orange juice	500ml Bacardi	500ml Curacao
500ml pineapple juice	500ml lime juice	



Slosh all ingredients except the lime juice together in an extremely large bowl. Find some room in the fridge and leave it there. Just before your party starts, stir in the lime juice and serve with ice, pineapple wedges, lime wheels and cherries. Encourage your friends to drink your Merry Painter Punch and there'll be more beer left for you. Enjoy!!

Resene - the paint the professionals use

EneserStrokes

It's been a hugely busy year for me, so here's the highlights package Eneser style (I'll use any excuse to feature more pics of me!)...

Early in the year I painted my house using Environmental Choice products... far better than those nasty smelly solventbased paints.



After that, they let me loose in a ColorShop, though I'm not sure everyone appreciated my signwriting skills.



The middle of the year was very busy with a Wallpaper Sale to run. I don't think I'll ever live down my version of the price cut!



Not long after that The Range 2002 appeared... without me!!! (What were they thinking?)



Eneser
A provocative, chic pink. Smoother with Lipslick, add Tip Mono, use as trim for Cadillac. Looks classy in Grey Suit and Siletto. Gives Cowboy and Jagger an exciting lift. ♪♪

Then the IT geeks decided that they would bring out EzyPaint2 virtual painting software and EzySpec virtual specification software to make life easier.



To round out the year, I thought I'd have a go creating my own Sandtex feature wall.



Lucky for me, by the time I had finished that, the Karen Walker range was ready for me to paint the rest of my house.

Hmm, which suits me better?
Karen Walker Oxford Blue...
or maybe Jungle Green is more my colour?



Phew! With all that activity, it's time for me to sit back and relax and enjoy a good chrissey!

WHO NEEDS PICK-UP LINES WHEN YOU'VE GOT MISTLETOE AND MERRY PAINTER'S PUNCH!



More news in February 2002

Eneser ♡
Buckettt

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