

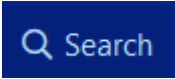
Notes on Searching on the GOG Forum

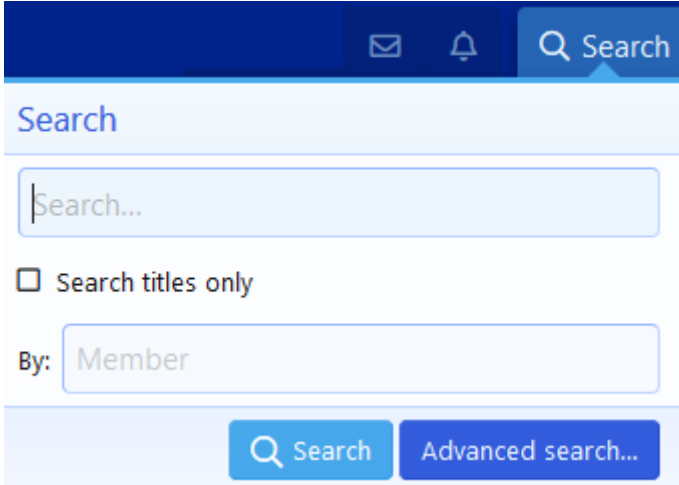
David L O Smith

Introduction

The search facility on the GOG forum is available to find useful information that appears there. However, even its advanced setting, is quite basic and it is certainly nowhere near as 'smart' as the Google search engine, so you need to manage your expectations accordingly.

Basic Search

This icon,  which appears top right in the menu on all the forum pages, is used (left click on it) to search the GOG Forum. This dialogue box appears:

A screenshot of the GOG Forum search interface. At the top, a dark blue header bar contains icons for email, notifications, and a search button labeled 'Search'. Below this, a light blue search dialog box is displayed. It features a search input field with the placeholder text 'Search...'. Below the input field is a checkbox labeled 'Search titles only'. Underneath the checkbox is a 'By:' label followed by a text input field containing the word 'Member'. At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: a blue 'Search' button and a dark blue 'Advanced search...' button.

The basic search allows a word or phrase to be typed into the 'field' where '**Search...**' appears. Ticking (left click) the small square box below limits the search only to words that appear in titles of the topics in the forum. The search may be limited to posts by a given member by entering the first two, or more, letter of the *name that they use on the forum* and then choosing (left click) their name from those that appear in the drop-down list. More than one name may be selected; the forum software will separate the users' forum names by commas.

Search By Author

By way of an example, you may know that a member, who goes by the name of Terry-something on the forum, has written in a topic about his railway that is called Skipley:

Search

skipley

☒ Search titles only

By: TerryW44693, |

Search Advanced search...

Choosing  brings up just one result:

 **The Gauge O Guild**

Home Forums ▾ What's new ▾ Members ▾ Forum Rules

Your news feed Latest activity Your profile Your account Log out

Home > **Search** >

Search results for query: *skipley*

 **Skipley (Midland) 1958-62**
The saga continues - hopefully. :):):) Who are they?? Regards TerryW
TerryW44693 · Thread · Feb 20, 2017 · Replies: 531 · Forum: My Layout

The word 'Skipley' appears in bold because it was the word that was being searched for. Clicking anywhere on the words '**Skipley (Midland) 1958-62**' will take you to the first page of the topic:

The Gauge O Guild

Home Forums What's new ▾ Members ▾ Forum Rules

New posts Find threads ▾ Watched ▾ Search forums Mark forums read

Home > Forums > Modelling > My Layout >

Skipley (Midland) 1958-62

TerryW44693 · Feb 20, 2017

1 2 3 ... 27 Next▸

TerryW44693
Wotherspoon16200

Feb 20, 2017

The saga continues - hopefully.

😊😊😊😊

Who are they??

Regards TerryW

[Report](#)

👍 You and Sayer23003

In this example, if you were not certain that it was Terry-something who started the topic you would leave the little square box unticked; otherwise the search will return only topics that include the word 'Skipley' in the title *and* that were started by Terry-something.

Open Search For A Subject

An open search for information is more likely than a search by author. If you wish to investigate whether anybody has written anything about, say, buffer stops, then the search box may be completed so:

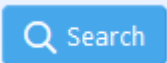
Search

buffer stops

☐ Search titles only


By: Member


Search Advanced search...

Choosing  brings up four pages of results, twenty results to a page, starting with the topics that have received the most recent posts:


Home > Search >

Search results for query: *buffer stops*

**Crook Street - a Case of Identity Theft**
...working on the station building this week, not least because I need to know its dimensions to be able to accurately cut railings for the **buffer stops**. The station building is made from my favourite material, artists mounting card. Ideally, I'd have made the platforms first but I can't get...
AllanP · Post #208 · Yesterday at 6:03 PM · Forum: My Layout

**SOMERSET & DORSET RAILWAY - BATH GREEN PARK**
...backed down ready to depart Green Park 75073 departs first and as soon as Platform 1 is vacant 40634 will move its coaches into Platform 1 ready to depart for Templecombe at 16.37. BATH GREEN PARK had its moments and there are 5 locos in the station, the 3 you see and the two at the **buffer**...
Pearce3832 · Post #1,212 · Apr 25, 2020 · Forum: My Layout

.....

**Lakeside to Haverthwaite**
...hoping to have 2 small termini but back to back down the middle on different levels so that they loop around and meet up beneath the **buffer stops**. all being well I should be able to fit in an emergency link at the other end to give a continuous run. Not unlike David Jenkinson's Kendal mark...
Jolly20996 · Post #8 · Aug 7, 2019 · Forum: My Layout

1 2 3 4 Next>


Home > Search >


Each result includes the title of the topic and the text around the search phrase ‘buffer stops’, which is shown in bold. Clicking on the title of a topic will take you to the post that from which the extract was taken.


Searching through eighty results to look at the titles and extracts of posts, may be considered feasible but a more refined search would be in order if the number of pages were much larger. In this example, it may be that specifically rail-built buffer stops were of interest. Searching similarly but with the phrase ‘rail-built buffer stops’ yields this result:

Home > Search >

Search results for query: *rail-built buffer stops*

**On from Alma Street Quay - Upwatch Works.**
To show quite how basic the scenery for the shunting spike is here is photo of the retaining wall from mount card with supports for the angled bank cut from card packaging and glued with UHU. Some offcuts of brick paper are glued along the front and the return at the end with gum arabic. I do...
Phipp18372 · Post #119 · Feb 8, 2020 · Forum: My Layout

**HOBSON'S BREWERY**
Supplementary question Bob - the wall at the front of the layout as specified is slightly higher than the ground surface. This seems to me unlikely as it would create a trip hazard so close to the siding. It occurred to me that most breweries were at one time served by canal wharves - so how...
Haines10259 · Post #246 · Jun 24, 2019 · Forum: My Layout

**A new cameo layout -Stourbridge Town**
I have decided to throw my hat into the ring to build a 7mm cameo layout, to help spread the Gospel, my current 8ft effort recently won the award for 'the greatest number of individual pieces for a layout.' To need a large estate car for an 8ft long layout, that takes an hour and a half to...
peter220950 · Post #1 · May 7, 2017 · Forum: My Layout

Home > Search >

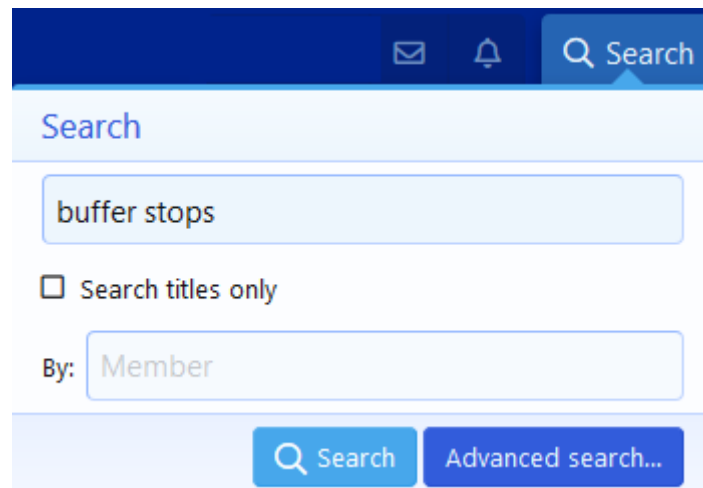
The search phrase ‘rail-built buffer stops’ does not appear in the results, and no words appear in bold, because there are no posts on the forum that include this exact phrase ‘rail-built buffer stops’. Clicking on each of the titles in turn, the phrase ‘rail built buffer stops’ (ie no hyphen between ‘rail’ and ‘built’) does appear later in the topic ‘On from Alma Street Quay - Upwatch Works’. The phrase ‘rail built’ appears within the post in ‘HOBSON'S BREWERY’ and the words ‘built’ and ‘rail’ appear within the post in ‘A new cameo layout -Stourbridge Town’, but they do not appear together.

From this search it would seem sensible to try searching again using the phrase ‘rail built buffer stops’ (ie no hyphen between ‘rail’ and ‘built’), which yields the same three results but with a different extract of text and the phrase ‘rail built buffer stops’ in bold in the topic ‘On from Alma Street Quay - Upwatch Works’.

Practice using the search facility will give an insight to its working and how best to compose search phrases to best effect. It is prudent to perform several searches with different search words and phrases before concluding that there is nothing of interest/relevance in the forum.

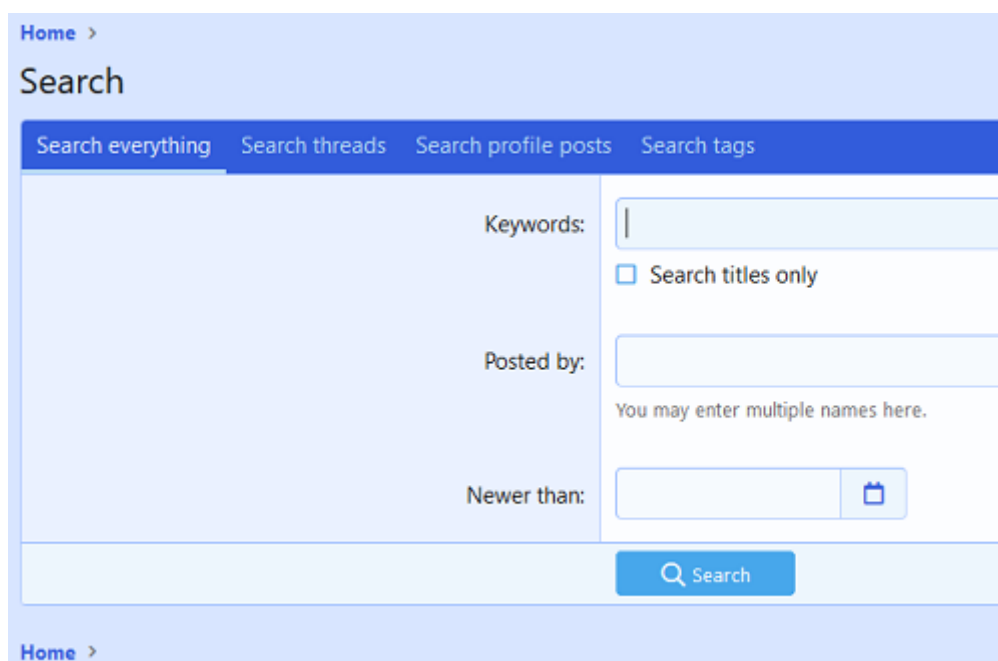
Advanced Search

The advanced search facility is not that advanced but it does allow more involved searches.



A screenshot of a forum's search interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with icons for email, notifications, and a search button labeled 'Search'. Below this is a light blue search box containing the text 'buffer stops'. Underneath the search box is a checkbox labeled 'Search titles only' which is currently unchecked. Below that is a 'By:' label followed by a text input field containing the word 'Member'. At the bottom of the search box, there are two buttons: a blue 'Search' button and a dark blue 'Advanced search...' button.

Choose ‘Advanced search ...’ from the menu at the bottom right of the search dialogue box:



A screenshot of the advanced search interface. At the top, there is a light blue header with a 'Home >' link. Below this is a dark blue bar with four tabs: 'Search everything', 'Search threads', 'Search profile posts', and 'Search tags'. The 'Search everything' tab is selected. Below the tabs is a large light blue search area. On the right side of this area, there are three input fields: 'Keywords:' with a text input field, 'Posted by:' with a text input field, and 'Newer than:' with a date picker. Below the 'Posted by:' field is a checkbox labeled 'Search titles only' which is unchecked. Below the 'Newer than:' field is a text input field with a calendar icon. At the bottom right of the search area is a blue 'Search' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a light blue footer with a 'Home >' link.

By default, the ‘Search everything’ tab is selected and the only gain is to be able to restrict searches to postings ‘Newer than:’ Probably the most useful feature in the ‘Search threads’ tab is the ability to select which of the main areas (‘forums’ in the language of the software) and sub areas (‘sub-forums’) you wish to search. In effect, you have the ability to restrict your searching to only certain parts of the whole forum. To select a (sub)area, left click on it in the menu; to select more (sub)areas, hold down the Ctrl key and continue to left click in the menu.

Search in forums:

Order by:

All forums
Forum Rules and Guidance
Introduction
Forum Rules
Guidance
Modelling
Modelling

☒ Search sub-forums as well

☒ Date
☐ Most replies

☐ Display results as threads

Search

Ticking the little box ‘Display results as threads’ will ensure that each thread (we might call it each topic) appears only once in the list, which is helpful to reduce the length of the list.

The ‘Search profile posts’ allows you to search on members’ personal profiles but this facility is not particularly useful because few members use their profile areas as the software intends. Similarly, the ‘Search tags’ facility allows the searching of tags but, again, few members tag their posts so it is far less useful than it might be.

Conclusion

The search function on the forum is an aid to finding much of the useful information that is recorded there but it is not ‘intelligent’ like search engines, such as Google, so perseverance and patience is required to try various searches until the desired information is found, or deemed not to be contained within the posts of the forum.

David L O Smith
7 May 2020