MM1 Model Makers, based in Irvine, Ayrshire in the United Kingdom, specializes in the manufacture of the high precision model locomotives and rolling stock prized by model rail collectors worldwide. MM1 is a subsidiary of the London & North Western Railway Company Ltd. The company was founded just over a year ago by Pete Waterman who, as well as being a well known pop music entrepreneur, is a keen railway and model rail enthusiast. Pete Waterman owns the London & North Western Railway Company Ltd. which is based in the historic railway heartland of Crewe.

Over £500,000 has been invested in the latest production equipment at MM1 which aims to marry the skills of the traditional model maker with the science of modern production technology. In addition to model making, the company has also recently undertaken the manufacture of other specialized precision components for full-size historic locomotives. The MM1 facility at Irvine is one of the most advanced of its kind in the UK, and includes a lost wax brass foundry, a white metal molding and casting shop, the latest polyurethane resin mold making equipment, CAD and computerized pattern-making systems and a fully-equipped CNC machine shop. The operation currently employs six people but this number is expected to grow significantly over the next year as production increases.

A recent addition to the company's equipment list is a "Superblast" wet blast finishing machine from USF Abrasive Developments. The machine was introduced primarily to clean the "trees" used in the lost-wax investment casting of small precision brass components. The latter contain fine relief detail, often down to 0.3mm, which is essential to ensure authenticity of the final model. The wet blast process is used following the removal of the bulk investment by quenching, cleaning in a caustic solution and a water rinse, and provides a thoroughly clean, degreased and semi-bright finish without destroying any intricate detail. After blasting, the trees are air dried and the components removed for final finishing and polishing by hand. As a secondary use, the wet blast machine is also employed for general component degreasing and cleaning.

The lost wax casting and finishing process is similar to that used in jewelry manufacture and Malcolm Coxhead, who runs the casting operation at MM1, received specialized training at the University of Central England's School of Jewellery in Birmingham, prior to setting up the operation. A similar USF Abrasive Developments wet blast machine is also used by the School of Jewellery and by a number of UK jewelry manufacturers.